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MAC
iPHONE
iPAD

MARCH 2021 NO.177

The new Mac

On test:
- MacBook Air
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FEATURING APPLE'S NEW SUPER FAST M1 CHIP

HOW TO:

Master Safari in Big Sur
Use Continuity Camera in Notes
Customize the Control Center
Create Smart Stacks in iOS 14

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SPOTLIGHT

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH...

iMac (Retina 5K, 27-inch)

More than six years after its launch, the first iMac to feature a 5K display has been added to Apple's online list of vintage products.

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CONTENTS

COVER REVIEW

38 MacBook Air
Apple's first post-Intel MacBook is here – and it's great, mostly...

42 MacBook Pro
Apple's flagship is no longer the big upgrade it once was

44 Mac mini
The M1-powered desktop that's seriously capable for its size

14

40 amazing free apps

From powerful desktop publishing to easy-to-use video tools, there's something for everyone in our no-cost software collection.

28

New uses for your Apple gear

Do you have lots of old Apple devices lying around just gathering dust? Don't throw them in the trash! These creative ideas will breathe new life into them.

70

Smart dreams

If the fractured smart home landscape could unite as a compatible whole we would all benefit. So why does the dream seem so out of reach?

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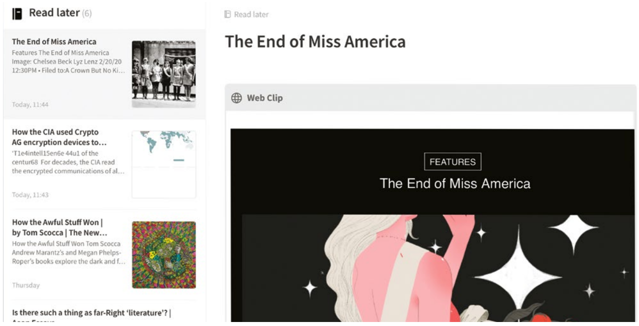

Read later (6)

The End of Miss America
Features The End of Miss America
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Today, 11:44

How the CIA used Crypto AG encryption devices to…
'T1e4intell15en6e 44u1 of the centur68 For decades, the CIA read the encrypted communications of al…
Today, 11:43

How the Awful Stuff Won | by Tom Scocca | The New…
How the Awful Stuff Won Tom Scocca Andrew Marantz's and Megan Phelps-Roper's books explore the dark and f…
Thursday

Is there such a thing as far-Right 'literature'? |

Read later

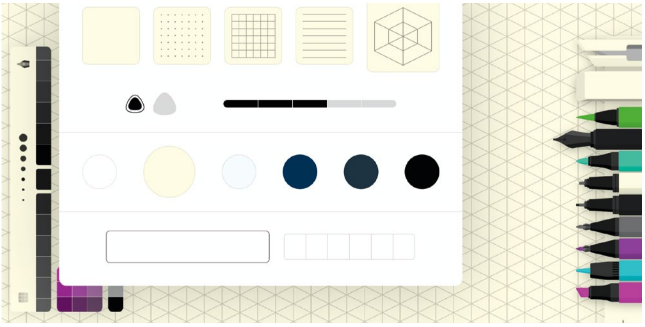
The End of Miss America

Web Clip

FEATURES

The End of Miss America

62 – Evernote 10



64 – Flow by Moleskine Studio 2

START

06 **Consider**
The editor on the new M1 Macs, and a 2020 surprise

07 **Digital Life**
Sign up to the newsletter for more *Mac|Life*

08 **AirPods Max**
Apple's first over-ear headphones are here

10 **The Shift**
Matt Bolton on yet more controversy surrounding iPhone features

11 **Share**
Email us your views at letters@maclife.com

12 **Crave**
The gear we're lusting after this month

REVIEWS

38 **MacBook Air**

42 **MacBook Pro**

44 **Mac mini**

46 **Ulysses 21**

48 **Corsair TBT100 Thunderbolt 3 Dock**

49 **Sparkle 3 for Mac**

49 **Wifi Explorer**

50 **Logitech Circle View**

52 **AirBuddy 2**

53 **Belkin SoundForm Elite**

54 **Adobe Premiere Elements 2021**

56 **Group Test: GaN chargers**

APP LIFE

62 **Evernote 10**

64 **Flow by Moleskine Studio 2**

65 **HEY Email**

66 **Six apps for online privacy**

68 **Best of the best**
Mac|Life's pick of the best apps

HOME LIFE

70 **Come together**
We've long been promised a united smart home. So why is it fracturing even more? And is Project CHIP the answer?

CREATE

74 **Ask**
Our experts solve your Mac and iOS problems

80 **Get the best from Safari in Big Sur**

82 **Master the Photos app**

84 **Get to grips with Continuity Camera**

86 **Customize the new Control Center**

88 **Smart Stacks in iOS 14**

90 **One clipboard to rule them all**

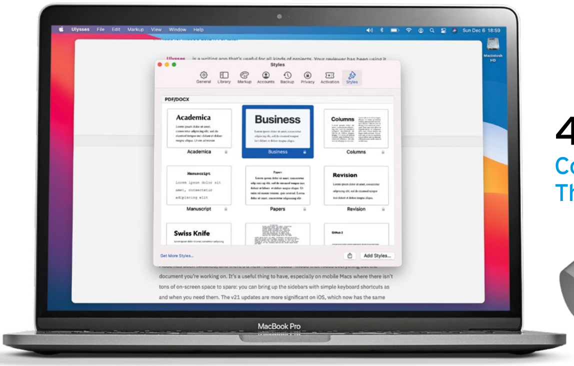
92 **Organize your media with iMazing 2**

94 **Change the default apps in iOS 14**

96 **How It Works: Apple One**

50
Logitech Circle View

46
Ulysses 21



48
Corsair TBT100 Thunderbolt 3 Dock

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ONE MORE THING...

After last issue's reveal of the new Apple-powered M1 Macs, this time around we've got reviews of all three machines, so you can see if they're worth purchasing. Personally, I think they're a big step forward, but I can understand that the lack of any changes superficially might put some people off. Evolution rather than revolution? Turn to page 38 to find out for yourself. By the middle of this year Apple is likely to announce fully redesigned Macs to go with its new processor technology, so unless you're desperate to get on the M1 bandwagon, you might want to hold out to see what happens. That said, I seriously doubt you would be disappointed if you bought an M1 Mac now and something new and shinier appeared a few months later. They are seriously capable machines and Apple has pretty much got them as damn near perfect as they can be (with a few shortcomings, which you'll read about in the reviews).

Just when we thought Apple was done and dusted with announcing new Apple gear at the end of last year (I appreciate that seems a while ago now, but at the time of writing this Christmas is only just round the corner) the AirPods Max were announced in early December. If you've not had a chance to check them out already, they're Apple's first over-ear headphones (p8) and they cost a not-too-inconsiderable $549. That's a huge amount of money when you consider that the best over-ear headphones you can get today from the likes of Bose, B&W, and Sony are — in some cases — half that price, and we're talking the cream of the crop here. Now, Apple has been a little, shall we say "light" on the specs of the new headset, but great things are being promised, with highlights such as high-fidelity audio, Adaptive EQ, Active Noise Cancellation, and spatial audio (as featured on the AirPods Pro, allowing for accurate cinema-like sound in movies). Will they be a tech triumph? I'll personally be test-driving them in the next issue to find out. All in a day's work.

Nick

NICK ODANTZIS, Editor
Twitter: @maclife

>>>THE TEAM

Matt Lochrie
Art Editor
Matt hates spending money and is a big fan of free apps like Spark email and Silicon (p14).

Iain Noble
Production Editor
Iain's iPad has been sat in the drawer, but "New uses for your Apple gear" (p28) has given him a few ideas.

Carrie Marshall
Contributor
Carrie shows you how to outfit your Mac or iOS device with essential apps (p14) – and they're all free!

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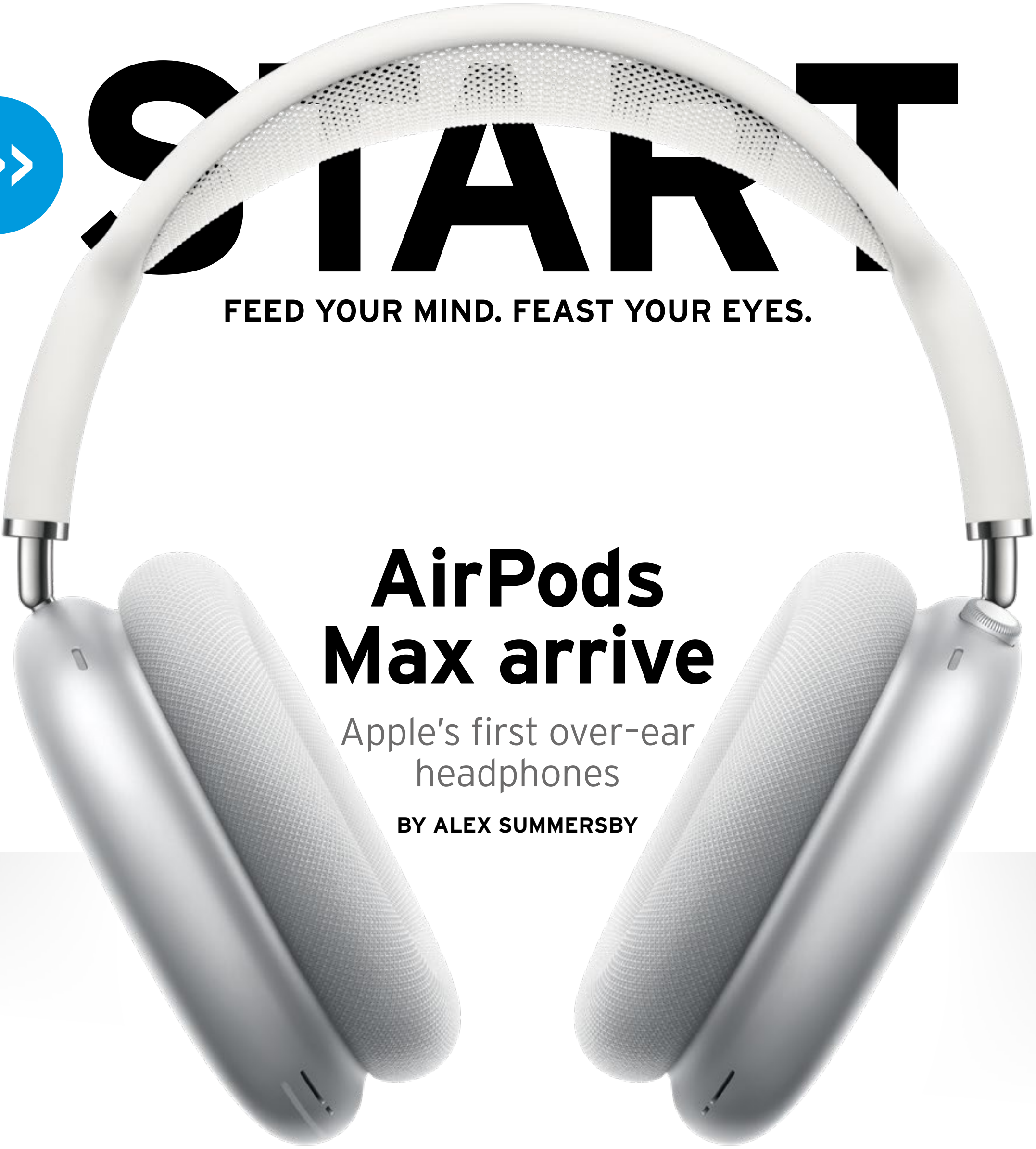


AirPods Max arrive

Apple's first over-ear headphones

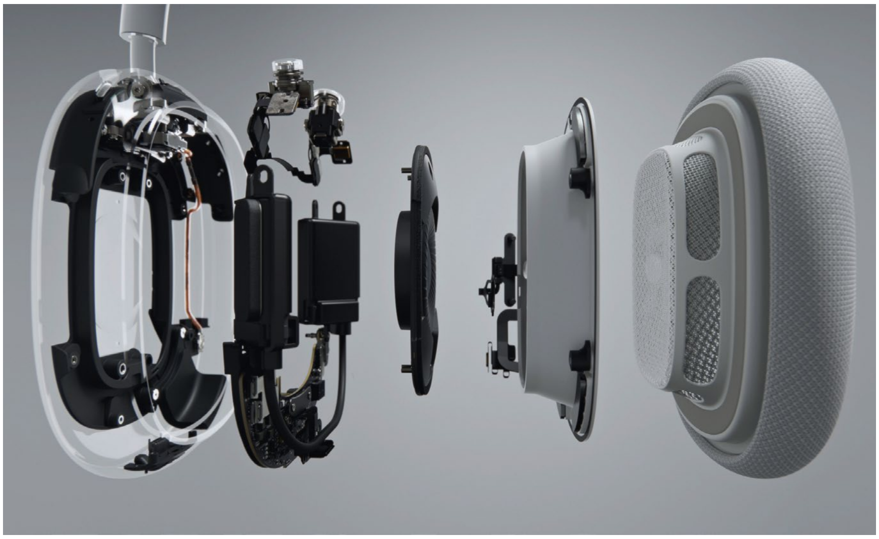
BY ALEX SUMMERSBY

APPLE HAS INTRODUCED AirPods Max, its first over-ear headphones, at $549. There are top-quality rivals available for much less but, in addition to promising premium acoustic performance, AirPods Max offers features you won't find on most non-Apple headphones, such as Spatial Audio, Automatic Switching, and Audio Sharing. (The exception is Beats, which Apple acquired for $3bn in 2014, but this is a more premium product than anything Beats currently offers.)

The distinctive design of the AirPods Max has divided opinion, but Apple says every part is designed for an uncompromising fit that creates the optimal acoustic seal for many different head shapes. The breathable knit mesh canopy distributes weight to reduce on-head pressure, the stainless steel frame is wrapped in a soft-touch material, and the telescoping arms stay in place to maintain the desired fit. The anodized aluminum cups attach with a "revolutionary" mechanism that allows each cup to pivot and rotate independently to fit the unique contours of the user's head as well as balance and distribute ear cup pressure. The ear cushions are "crafted with acoustically engineered memory foam" to create an effective seal — a critical factor in delivering immersive sound.

The Apple-Watch-like Digital Crown enables you to adjust volume, play or pause audio, skip tracks, answer or end phone calls, and activate Siri. The noise control button switches between Active Noise Cancellation and Transparency Mode, which lets through ambient sound while you listen to music.

Image rights: Apple.



Apple says the headphones offer “the highest quality listening experience possible.”

What about the sound quality? Apple says a unique dual-neodymium ring magnet motor ensures ultra-low total harmonic distortion of less than 1% across the entire audible range, even at maximum volume. With a 40mm Apple-designed dynamic driver and 10-core Apple H1 chip in each ear cup, the headphones use computational audio to deliver “the highest quality listening experience possible.”

Adaptive EQ measures the sound signal and adjusts the low and mid frequencies in real time. In addition, each ear cup has three outward-facing microphones to detect ambient noise, plus one mic inside the ear cup to monitor the sound reaching your ear. Using computational audio, Active Noise Cancellation continuously adapts to the headphone fit and movement in real time.

Speaking of movement: using the gyroscope and accelerometer in AirPods Max — and iPhone or iPad — the Spatial Audio feature dynamically tracks the motion of the user’s head as well as the device, then remaps the sound field so it stays anchored even as the user’s head moves, helping deliver an immersive, “theater-like” experience for content recorded in 5.1, 7.1, and Dolby Atmos.

AirPods Max automatically detect when they’re on your head, and pause when you remove them or simply lift one ear cup. Beamforming microphones help isolate your voice on phone calls, so it’s clear even in windy conditions.

In addition, like other AirPods, AirPods Max features one-tap setup, automatic pairing with all the devices signed in to your iCloud account — including iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac, Apple Watch, and Apple TV. And there’s automatic switching between them when, for example, you’re listening to music from your Mac and want to take a call. Plus, audio sharing means you can share an audio stream between two sets of AirPods on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Apple TV 4K.

As for battery life, AirPods Max delivers up to 20 hours of audio, talk time, or movie playback with Active Noise Cancellation and Spatial Audio enabled. Slip the headphones into the soft Smart Case supplied and they go into an ultra-low-power state to preserve battery charge.

Apple’s new headphones come in a choice of five colors.

>>> Read our comprehensive review next issue
Turn to p26 to guarantee you get your copy each month

Image rights: Apple.

> THE SHIFT

MATT BOLTON on yet another feature that makes the iPhone doomed if it doesn't have it – which it doesn't – but it will survive...

FOR JUST ABOUT the entire life of the iPhone, there's been some feature that nerds on the internet consider to be essential for inclusion in the next model, otherwise it should be considered behind the times and unbuyable, except for rubes who don't know better. Frequently, that feature has then not been included in the next model, yet 20 million rubes will buy the supposedly unbuyable iPhone and love it, and then everyone will discover that the next model will include it.

The list of so-called essentials has included 4G, OLED screens, 4K video recording, 5G, and in 2020 it was high-refresh displays.

In the last year or so, 90Hz or 120Hz screens have become table stakes among Android flagships, meaning that the screen updates 90 or 120 times per second. Until recently, 60Hz has been the norm that every phone sticks to. A faster refresh rate means less of a gap between frames of animation, which means movement on the screen looks smoother, clearer, and more detailed. And it's much nicer to have a higher refresh rate, as anyone with a recent iPad Pro will tell you — these can run at 120Hz.

Never Settle

This is the OnePlus 8. Its screen is lovely and can hit 90Hz... and in testing that means nearly a 10% drop in battery life. Too much?

So why wouldn't Apple include this tech right now, since it makes the phone more pleasant to use? I haven't had the chance to ask them yet at the time of writing, but there is one key disadvantage to high-refresh screens: battery life. To get decent battery life, Android phones often come with this tech turned off by default. The iPad Pro actually only runs at 120Hz when needed — if you're watching a movie or reading a book, it drops the frame rate back down, since you don't need the smoothness.

And so we're left with the iPhone 12 models being looked down upon by a certain section of the internet again for missing this key feature, and as an iPad Pro user I admit that I'm a bit disappointed that the iPhone 12 Pros didn't get this (they are "Pro," after all). But I'm not really surprised.

High-refresh screens are very nice, but they're not essential.

9:41
Clock
Camera
375/500CAL
19/30MIN
4/12HRS
TV
Stocks
Fitness
Mail
Files
FRIENDS
Sep 10, 2019
Photos
App Store
Weather

The new iPhones get higher-res screens instead of higher refresh rates. Probably the more useful option.

When it comes to the iPad Pro, there is a more practical reason for including them: drawing with Apple Pencil. The faster refresh rate means that the lines appear on screen more quickly, so your sketching can be more accurate. On iPhone there's no equivalent use like this other than gaming, but we know Apple's commitment to games is hit and miss.

I suspect Apple looked at the battery impact and decided that it wasn't worth it, even as an optional extra. That's a shame, but if you're hearing from nerds online that the iPhone shouldn't be bought because it doesn't have this one feature, don't worry about it. It's a very nice feature, but the iPhone has a lot of those. Feel free to join the 20m rubes and be happy.

>>> Matt is the AV and smart home editor of Future's flagship technology website T3 and has been charting changes at Apple since his student days. He's skeptical of tech industry hyperbole, but still gets warm and fuzzy on hearing "one more thing."

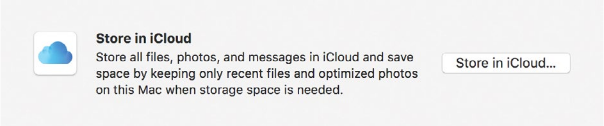
Image rights: Apple

LETTER OF THE MON

In answer to the last issue's question on the Share page, I would love to read more "vintage" Mac articles. I started computing with two Lisas — 10MB hard drives which you'd never be able to fill up, and running at a speedy 5MHz. They're still in the basement and I intend to start up one of them for old times' sake. We Lisa users laughed when the first Macs appeared. My goodness — so slow, no hard drive, and the need to keep putting floppies into the only drive. Then it was many pleasant years with a Mac IIci. Since 2004 I have been very pleased with my PowerMac running four 2.5GHz CPUs. People in my Mac Users Group make fun of it, but I tell them my PowerMac does things plenty fast enough for me; I don't need to buy new software to run on yet another operating system, my software is customized and efficient for my usage, and I don't suffer some of the 1.0 problems they report.

CHESTER PETERSON JR

Take a look at our feature in this issue on page 28 — "New uses for old Apple gear." That might inspire you to do something creative with your old Apple devices. Or you might just like to keep them as they are for nostalgia's sake.



Store in iCloud

Store all files, photos, and messages in iCloud and save space by keeping only recent files and optimized photos on this Mac when storage space is needed.

XII
IX
III
VI

Apple admits that fall detection can be a little hit and miss.

Cloud query

I have a MacBook Air and I want to gain storage space on the drive. Is it possible to delete my photos and keep them on iCloud? I can't seem to find out how to do this.

GILLES DUGAL

Yes, it's possible to increase the amount of storage space on your Mac by using iCloud, which will store all the original size photos in iCloud Photos. To do this, head to the Storage Management window in Apple menu > About This Mac and then click Storage. Here you can see how much of your storage is dedicated to different types of files. Click on the Manage button to the right, and then click "Store in iCloud." You can choose to store various files in iCloud, including photos. When you want to open the photo on your Mac, double-click the cloud icon to download it.

Fall story

I bought an Apple Watch SE a month ago. Twice in the first week it asked me if I'd had a fall and did I need to press the emergency alarm, although nothing untoward had occurred. I thought such concern would really be useful if something awful happened. One day I came off my horse and landed on my head and badly sprained my neck. Not a peep out of the Apple Watch!

JOHN M HARRIS

Unfortunately, Apple admits that fall detection doesn't always work, stating: "The more physically active you are, the more likely you are to trigger fall detection due to high-impact activity that can appear to be a fall." That said, in your case it looks as if there may be an issue with your hardware. As your Apple Watch SE is still well within warranty, we'd recommend taking it to an Apple store to be checked over. Or Apple's support page allows you to book your device in to be shipped off and checked over; it may need to be repaired or replaced. As fall detection is such a crucial feature, it's worth making sure it's working properly – for health's sake.

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CRAVE

THE GEAR WE'RE LUSTING AFTER

Beginning of a New Era

1

Samsung Smart Monitor M7
samsung.com
$399

>>> Samsung has basically combined its TVs and monitors in one here, making this perfect for an office you might also want to use as a chill-out room. On the one hand, it's a 32-inch 4K monitor with USB-C connectivity and 65W of power, making it great for MacBooks. But it also has Samsung's Smart Hub built in, which makes it easy to access streaming services, such as Netflix, without needing a computer connected or turned on. Even better, it supports video streaming over AirPlay 2, and can even show Microsoft 365 docs with no PC attached.

Image rights: Samsung.

2

Belkin Boost Charge TrueFreedom Pro

belkin.com
$129.99

>>> Remember AirPower, Apple's wireless charging mat that you could place two devices on at any point and it would charge them thanks to having loads of Qi charging coils dotted under the surface? Apple abandoned the idea, but Belkin didn't – this is that exact concept, actually available. It can take two devices at once, though it won't support the Apple Watch, which was a trick AirPower promised. It will only charge an iPhone at 7.5W (not the 15W of MagSafe), but it's cool for this to become a reality.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

3

Serial1 Rush City/Speed

serial1.com
$4,999

>>> If you don't recognize the name of this new ebike brand, take a closer look at the image – this is Harley-Davidson's foray into the world of electric-assisted bikes. There are four models coming in this range, but we're loving the most expensive one (we tried not to, but come on). It's really built to get you around. Its huge 706Wh battery and 250W motor are designed to assist you up to 28mph, so we're really talking about this replacing a car for local journeys. Or maybe not even that local – its range is up to 115 miles…

4

Klipsch Cinema 1200

klipsch.com
$1,499

>>> There are three cool tricks we're interested in here. Firstly, this is a great Dolby Atmos soundbar, with a soundbar unit, subwoofer, two wireless rear speakers for true surround sound, and four upfiring speakers packed in for true overhead Atmos audio. Secondly, it also has AirPlay 2, Bluetooth and Spotify Connect for music, plus Klipsch's hi-fi expertise to make it sing. Thirdly, it's also the first 8K-ready soundbar we've seen, with HDMI passthrough for the highest connection standards. You may not need that now, but 8K is on the way and your soundbar shouldn't hold you back, right?

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The best free apps for Mac and iOS

From powerful desktop publishing to easy-to-use video tools, there's something for everyone in our no-cost software collection

WRITTEN BY
CARRIE MARSHALL

Messages
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9:41
Tuesday, September 15
FaceTime
TUE 15
Calendar
Clock
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Notes
Voice Memos
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Books
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MacBook Pro

WE'RE LIVING IN a golden age of affordable apps: software that used to cost many hundreds of dollars is now available for a fraction of that, while subscriptions make it easy to spread the cost of even the priciest pro software. But if you're on a tight budget then spending any amount of money on an app can be a problem. Hurrah, then, for the developers who give away their apps for free. There are lots of reasons to consider using free apps. Some are philosophical — many of the apps here are open source, made by and for the community — and some practical: there's no point spending lots on an app for a one-off task. And, of course, there's the best reason of all — it can save you a lot of cash. As we'll discover, cheap definitely doesn't mean nasty. Some of these free apps are just as capable as expensive equivalents.

Must-have freebies for your Mac

Boost your Mac's toolset without spending a penny

PUT YOUR CREDIT card away! It's perfectly possible to fit out your Mac with apps for your entire workflow without spending a dime. There are free note-takers and project managers, image illustrators and editors, desktop publishers and audio editors, 3D modellers and video converters, and many more. Some of them are a little quirky or take a bit of getting used to, but many of them are just as professional as big-name, paid-for products. In fact, in some cases they're made by the same people in the hope that you'll want to upgrade to the paid product later.

SILICON

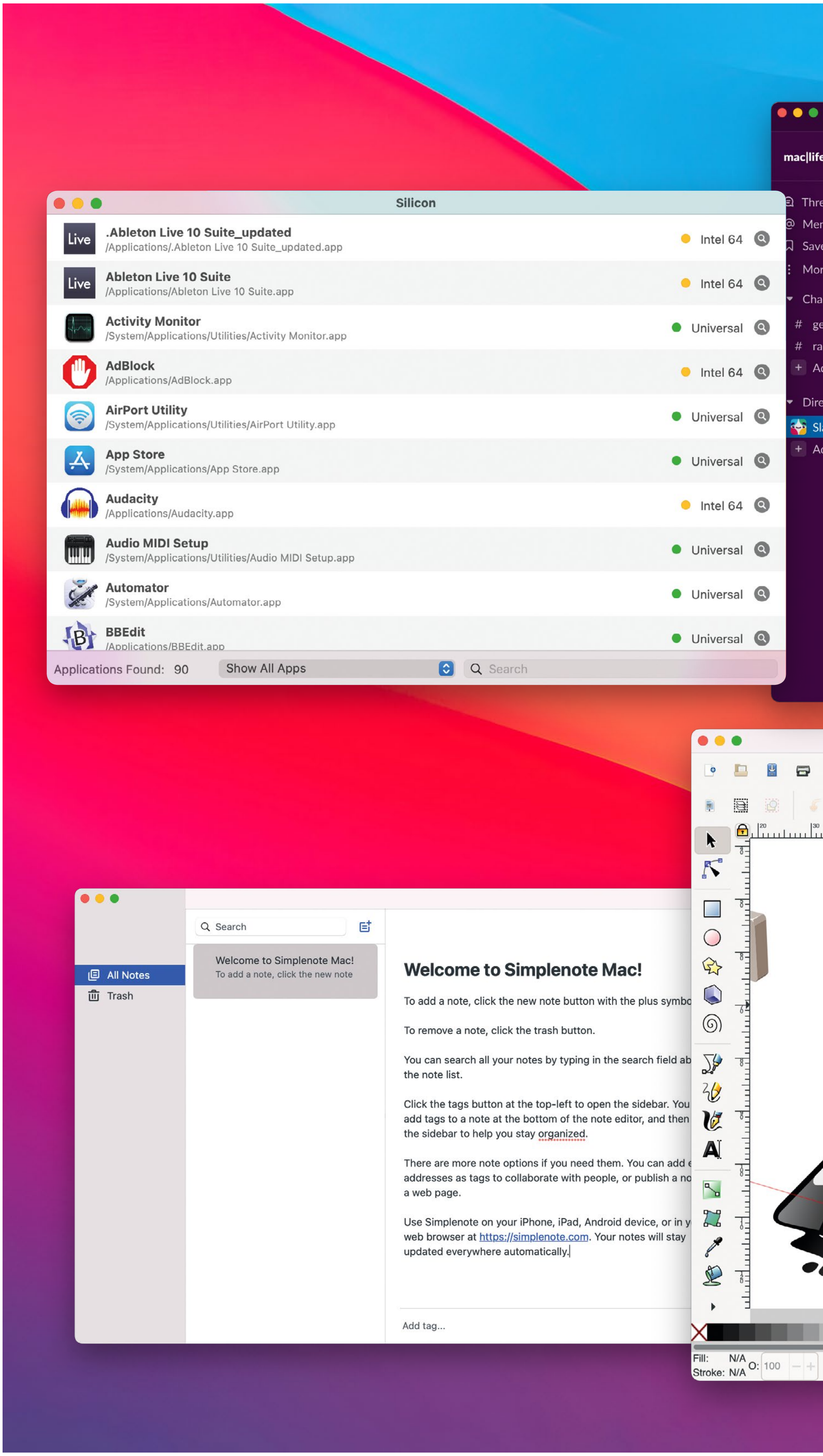
From iMazing, github.com/DigiDNA/Silicon

> If you're thinking about an M1 Mac, Silicon will scan your installed apps to identify whether they're universal apps that support Apple silicon natively or if they'll have to run in emulation.

SIMPLENOTE

From Automattic, simplenote.com **Also on** iPhone, iPad

> Unlike Apple's Notes, which is Apple-only, this to-do and notes app syncs with Android, Windows and web browsers too. It supports Markdown formatting for fast text editing, enables you to share with others and add tags for easy classification, and it includes auto backups and time travel so you can see what you noted a week or month ago.



Silicon

.Ableton Live 10 Suite_updated	/Applications/.Ableton Live 10 Suite_updated.app	Intel 64
Ableton Live 10 Suite	/Applications/Ableton Live 10 Suite.app	Intel 64
Activity Monitor	/System/Applications/Utilities/Activity Monitor.app	Universal
AdBlock	/Applications/AdBlock.app	Intel 64
AirPort Utility	/System/Applications/Utilities/AirPort Utility.app	Universal
App Store	/System/Applications/App Store.app	Universal
Audacity	/Applications/Audacity.app	Intel 64
Audio MIDI Setup	/System/Applications/Utilities/Audio MIDI Setup.app	Universal
Automator	/System/Applications/Automator.app	Universal
BBEdit	/Applications/BBEdit.app	Universal

Applications Found: 90

Welcome to Simplenote Mac!

To add a note, click the new note button with the plus symbo

To remove a note, click the trash button.

You can search all your notes by typing in the search field ab the note list.

Click the tags button at the top-left to open the sidebar. You add tags to a note at the bottom of the note editor, and then the sidebar to help you stay organized.

There are more note options if you need them. You can add addresses as tags to collaborate with people, or publish a no a web page.

Use Simplenote on your iPhone, iPad, Android device, or in y web browser at https://simplenote.com. Your notes will stay updated everywhere automatically.

Image rights top to bottom: DigiDNA SARL., Automattic.

SLACK

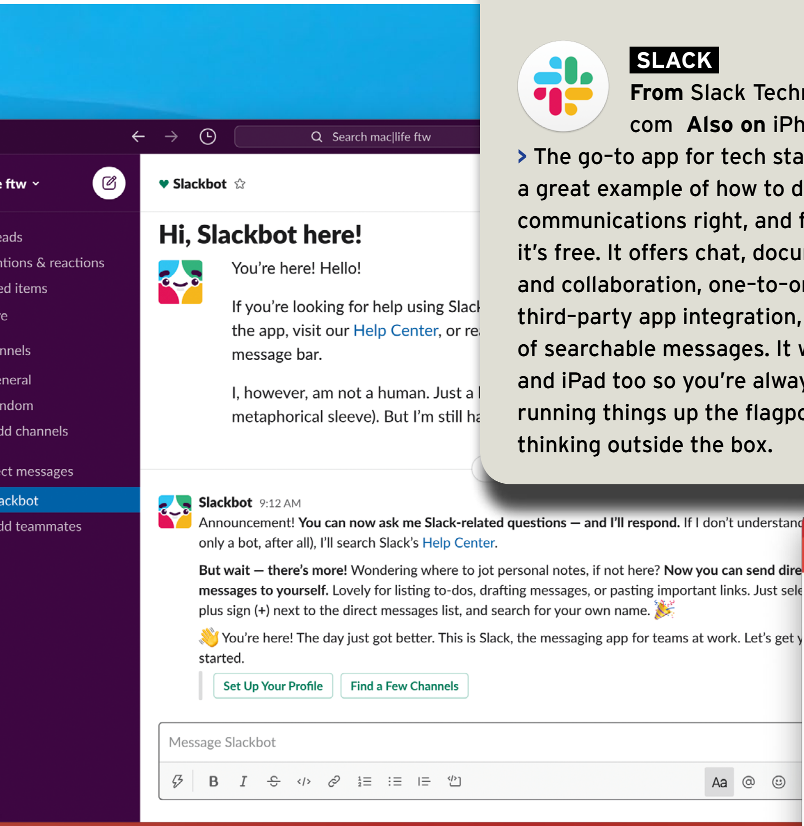
From Slack Technologies, slack.com **Also on** iPhone, iPad

> The go-to app for tech startups is a great example of how to do unified communications right, and for small teams it's free. It offers chat, document sharing and collaboration, one-to-one video calls, third-party app integration, and up to 10K of searchable messages. It works on iOS and iPad too so you're always in the loop, running things up the flagpole and thinking outside the box.

TODOIST

From Doist, todoist.com
Also on iPhone, iPad

> Todoist is a to-do list and project manager. It enables you to create reminders and lists, as you'd expect, but you can also create projects with sections and subtasks and delegate items to other people. There are lots of templates to help you get started and it's as happy with complex projects as it is with your weekly shopping list. It's also available for iPhone and Apple Watch.


Search mac|life ftw
ftw
eads
tions & reactions
ed items
nnels
eneral
ndom
dd channels
ct messages
ackbot
dd teammates
Slackbot

Hi, Slackbot here!

You're here! Hello!

If you're looking for help using Slack the app, visit our Help Center, or re message bar.

I, however, am not a human. Just a metaphorical sleeve). But I'm still ha

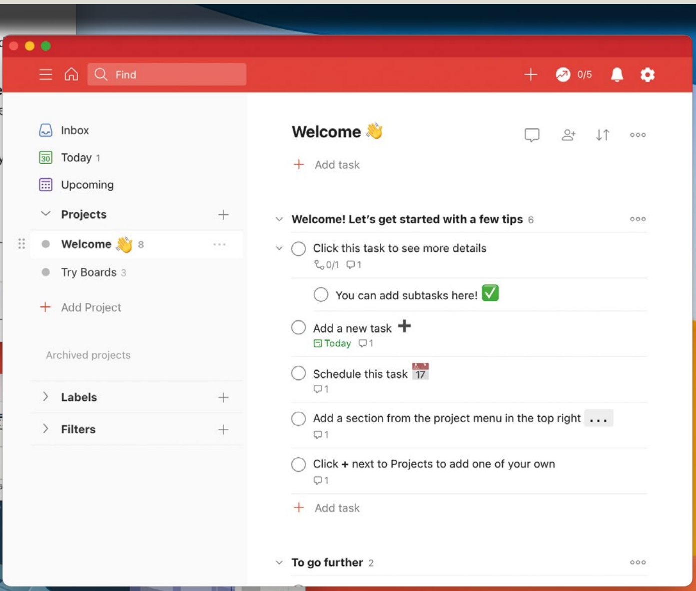
Slackbot 9:12 AM

Announcement! You can now ask me Slack-related questions — and I'll respond. If I don't understand only a bot, after all), I'll search Slack's Help Center.

But wait — there's more! Wondering where to jot personal notes, if not here? Now you can send dire messages to yourself. Lovely for listing to-dos, drafting messages, or pasting important links. Just sele plus sign (+) next to the direct messages list, and search for your own name. 🎉

👋 You're here! The day just got better. This is Slack, the messaging app for teams at work. Let's get y started.

Set Up Your Profile
Find a Few Channels
Message Slackbot
Aa


Find
0/5
Inbox
Today 1
Upcoming
Projects
Welcome 👋 8
Try Boards 3
Add Project
Archived projects
Labels
Filters

Welcome 👋

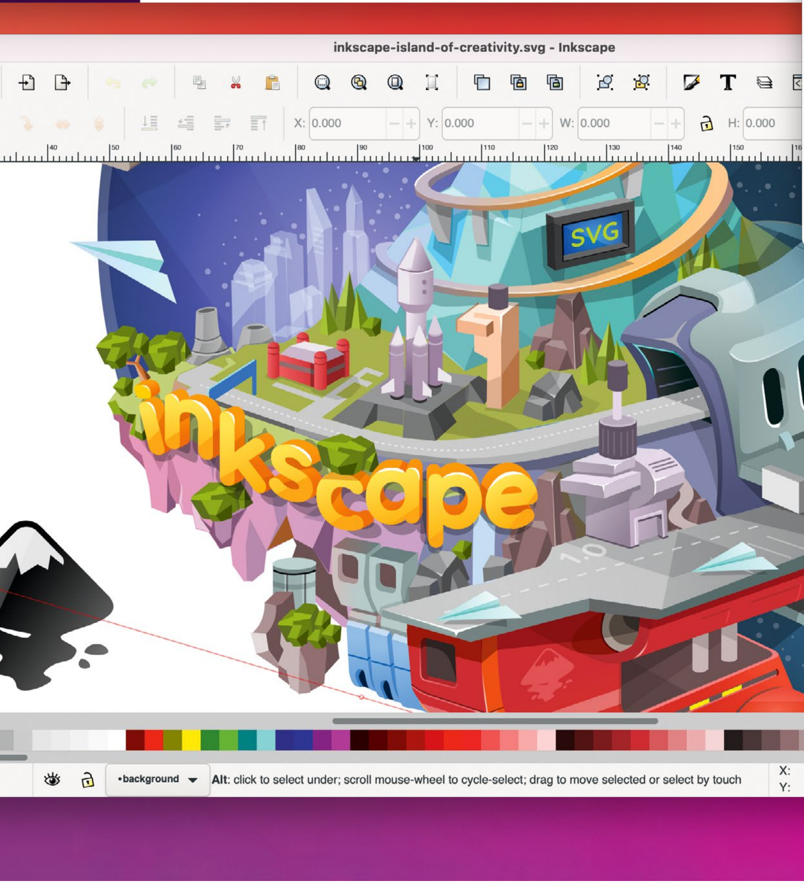
+ Add task

Welcome! Let's get started with a few tips 6

- ○ Click this task to see more details
  - ○ You can add subtasks here! ✅
- ○ Add a new task +
- ○ Schedule this task
- ○ Add a section from the project menu in the top right ...
- ○ Click + next to Projects to add one of your own

+ Add task

To go further 2


inkscape-island-of-creativity.svg - Inkscape
X: 0.000
Y: 0.000
W: 0.000
H: 0.000
SVG
inkscape
•background
Alt: click to select under; scroll mouse-wheel to cycle-select; drag to move selected or select by touch
X: 74.44
Y: 119.11
Z:
167%

INKSCAPE

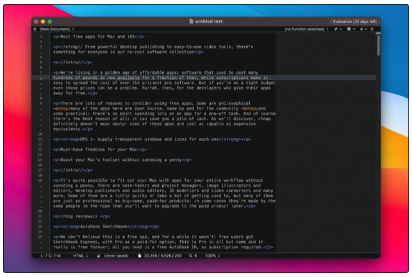
From Inkscape Team, inkscape.org

> Inkscape is a powerful vector illustration tool that's worth considering before you shell out for a paid-for product. Let's start with the negatives first. It looks like it's been beamed in from 1997 – although it's only just reached V1 status it's been in development since 2003 – and it's not as immediately friendly as paid-for vector illustration apps from the likes of Adobe or Serif. But there is a good selection of drawing, shape and text tools, object grouping and layering, gradient and pattern fills and path operations that you can use to create complex illustrations.

Image rights: Slack Technologies, Doist, Inkscape Team.

More free Mac apps

There are plenty more completely gratis options to choose from



```
<p>Best free apps for Mac and iOS</p>

<p>//strap// From powerful desktop publishing to easy-to-use video tools, there's
something for everyone in our no-cost software collection</p>

<p>//intro//</p>

<p>We're living in a golden age of affordable apps: software that used to cost many
hundreds of pounds is now available for a fraction of that, while subscriptions make it
easy to spread the cost of even the priciest pro software. But if you're on a tight budget
even those prices can be a problem. Hurrah, then, for the developers who give their apps
away for free.</p>

<p>There are lots of reasons to consider using free apps. Some are philosophical
-&nbsp;many of the apps here are Open Source, made by and for the community -&nbsp;and
some practical: there's no point spending lots on an app for a one-off task. And of course
there's the best reason of all: it can save you a pile of cash. As we'll discover, cheap
definitely doesn't mean nasty: some of these apps are just as capable as expensive
equivalents.</p>

<p><strong>DPS 1- supply transparent windows and icons for each one</strong></p>

<p>Must-have freebies for your Mac</p>

<p>Boost your Mac's toolset without spending a penny</p>

<p>//intro//</p>

<p>It's quite possible to fit out your Mac with apps for your entire workflow without
spending a penny. There are note-takers and project managers, image illustrators and
editors, desktop publishers and audio editors, 3D modellers and video converters and many
more. Some of them are a little quirky or take a bit of getting used to, but many of them
are just as professional as big-name, paid-for products: in some cases they're made by the
same people in the hope that you'll want to upgrade to the paid product later.</p>

<p>//big reviews// </p>

<p><strong>AutoDesk Sketchbook</strong></p>

<p>We can't believe this is a free app, and for a while it wasn't: free users got
Sketchbook Express, with Pro as a paid-for option. This is Pro in all but name and it
really is free forever; all you need is a free AutoDesk ID, no subscription required.</p>
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L: 7 C: 114    HTML    (never saved)    20,356 / 3,526 / 250    6    100%
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BBEDIT

From Bare Bones Software, barebones.com

> BBEdit is the leading HTML and text editor for Macs. It isn't free, but after the 30-day trial period you can continue to use its basic features forever. And those features aren't so basic: they include multiple clipboards and multiple undo, transparent editing inside compressed files, multi-file search and replace, easy text extraction, and more.

Messages File Edit View Buddies Window Help
Tue Nov 10 9:41 AM
Connection Secured
Singapore
Connection Secured
499 MB Remaining this month
Upgrade
MacBook Pro

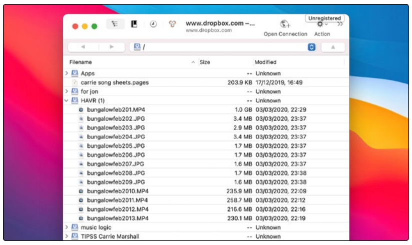
TUNNELBEAR

From Tunnelbear, tunnelbear.com **Also on** iPhone, iPad

> Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are all the rage these days, and it's easy to see why. They enable you to securely and privately access the internet anywhere, perfect for accessing your work's servers from home, surfing the web and checking your emails in a café or bar, or for watching your favorite TV shows remotely when abroad.

Of all the VPNs out there, TunnelBear is one of our favorites – it's super-easy to use, has client apps for Mac, iPhone and iPad, and enables you to connect to hundreds of servers in over 26 countries. It has a no-logs policy too, so your online activities really are safe from prying eyes.

For occasional use, it's completely free, offering up to 500MB of data per month. Even its paid-for plans are suitably inexpensive.



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Filename                          Size   Modified
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  carrie song sheets.pages    203.9 KB   17/12/2019, 16:49
> for jon                           --   Unknown
v HAVR (1)                          --   Unknown
    bungalowfeb201.MP4          1.0 GB   03/03/2020, 22:29
    bungalowfeb202.JPG          3.4 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb203.JPG          2.9 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb204.JPG          3.4 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb205.JPG          1.7 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb206.JPG          1.7 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb207.JPG          1.6 MB   03/03/2020, 23:37
    bungalowfeb208.JPG          1.7 MB   03/03/2020, 23:38
    bungalowfeb209.JPG          1.6 MB   03/03/2020, 23:38
    bungalowfeb2010.MP4       235.9 MB   03/03/2020, 22:09
    bungalowfeb2011.MP4       258.7 MB   03/03/2020, 22:12
    bungalowfeb2012.MP4       216.6 MB   03/03/2020, 22:16
    bungalowfeb2013.MP4       230.1 MB   03/03/2020, 22:19
> music logic                       --   Unknown
> TIPSS Carrie Marshall             --   Unknown
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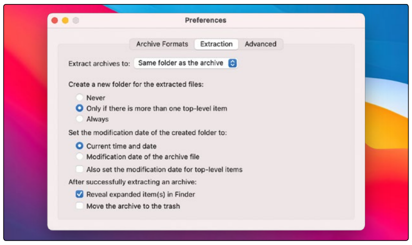
CYBERDUCK

From Cyberduck Team, cyberduck.io

> We sometimes describe Cyberduck as an FTP app but it's much more than that. It's a cloud browser with support not just for FTP and SFTP but also cloud storage, WebDAV, Amazon S3, BackBlaze B2, and more. If you find it useful, the full version it isn't expensive.



Extract archives to: Same folder as the archive

Create a new folder for the extracted files:
○ Never
● Only if there is more than one top-level item
○ Always

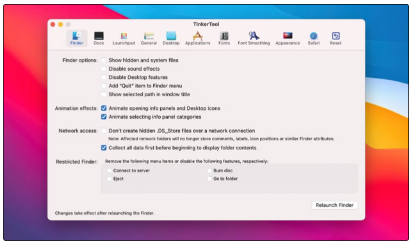
Set the modification date of the created folder to:
● Current time and date
○ Modification date of the archive file
☐ Also set the modification date for top-level items

After successfully extracting an archive:
☑ Reveal expanded item(s) in Finder
☐ Move the archive to the trash

THE UNARCHIVER

From MacPaw, theunarchiver.com

> This app is a kind of silicon box cutter: if you need to unpack a compressed file, The Unarchiver can open it up for you. It opens Zip, RAR, LZH, disc images, some Windows installers and many more, and it does it with blistering speed and minimal user input.



Finder options:
☐ Show hidden and system files
☐ Disable sound effects
☐ Disable Desktop features
☐ Add "Quit" item to Finder menu
☐ Show selected path in window title

Animation effects:
☑ Animate opening info panels and Desktop icons
☑ Animate selecting info panel categories

Network access:
☐ Don't create hidden .DS_Store files over a network connection
Note: Affected network folders will no longer store comments, labels, icon positions or similar Finder attributes.
☑ Collect all data first before beginning to display folder contents

Restricted Finder: Remove the following menu items or disable the following features, respectively:
☐ Connect to server
☐ Eject
☐ Burn disc
☐ Go to folder

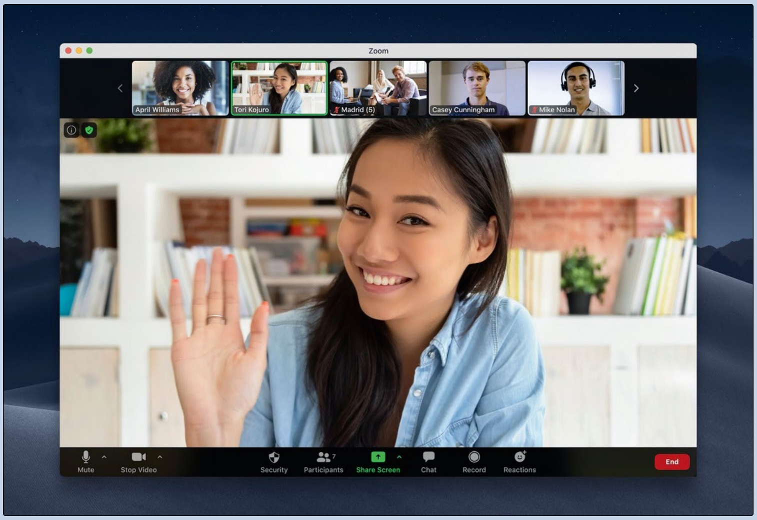
Changes take effect after relaunching the Finder.

TINKERTOOL

From Dr Marcel Bresink, bresink.com

> TinkerTool has been a firm favorite in the office for many years thanks to its ability to control obscure Mac settings. From silencing Finder sound effects to creating specific Stacks or disabling unwanted animations, with TinkerTool it's easy to make your Mac just-so.

Image rights clockwise from top-left: Bare Bones Software, TunnelBear, Dr Marcel Bresink, MacPaw, iterate.



ZOOM

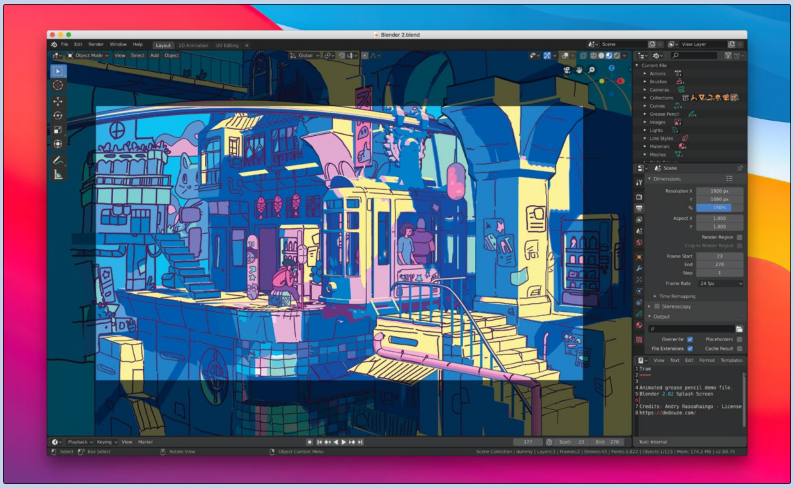
From Zoom, zoom.us
Also on iPhone, iPad

› FaceTime isn't useful if you want to talk to people who aren't on Apple devices. If you need a cross-platform alternative, Zoom is one of the best. It became a huge hit during lockdown thanks to its multi-user support: the free version can host up to 100 participants for up to 40 minutes at a time, making Zoom great for online quizzes, tutorials, presentations, and other group activities. It's pretty good for one-on-one video chat too, and we like the ability to customize the background to make our homes look more interesting. Just make sure you password-protect your meetings to prevent strangers popping in.

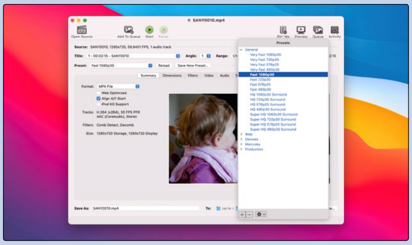
BLENDER

From Blender Foundation, blender.org

› We'd ask how much you think professional-quality 3D rendering software should cost, but as this is a free apps feature you already know the answer. Blender would be a great app with a pro-level price tag; as a free open source app it's a steal. It's used in anime and Amazon Prime series, in VR environment design and industrial design. It's built to handle the entire 3D pipeline, from modelling all the way through to rendering and video editing, and it runs happily on Macs with macOS 10.13 or later if you have 16GB of RAM and a decent graphics card.



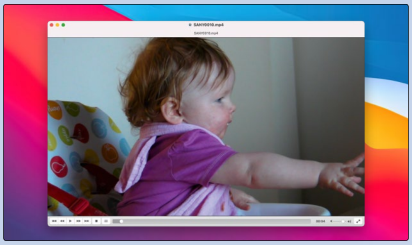
Andry Rasoahaingo - License CC-BY-SA 3.0, https://dedouze.com/



HANDBRAKE

From The Handbrake Team, handbrake.fr

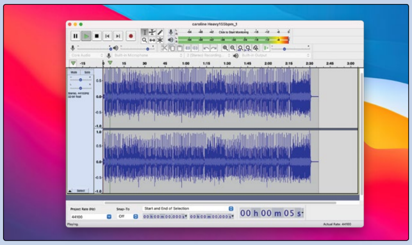
› HandBrake is a must-have for anyone who uses video. We've used it to convert downloads into formats our Macs can play and, even more usefully, to convert old home movie into Apple-friendly footage. It's great for converting video for almost any destination.



VLC

From VideoLAN Organization, videolan.org

› This free open source media player isn't just a handy playback app, it's also a time machine. It can play almost anything in almost any format, including some really old ones – RealVideo, anyone? If you want to watch it, it's highly likely that VLC can play it.



AUDACITY

From Audacity Team, audacityteam.org

› It's been around for eons, but Audacity remains a fantastic app for multi-track audio recording and editing thanks to its simplicity, plugin support, and lightning-fast performance. It's the Swiss Army knife of audio for musicians and podcasters.

Image rights clockwise from top-left: Zoom Video Communications, Blender Team & Community, Audacity, VideoLAN non-profit organization, The HandBrake Team.

Indispensable additions to your iPhone

Our selection of the very best apps for iPhones, from creativity to organization

HARD TO BELIEVE, but the iPhone nearly didn't get apps at all: the initial plan was for us to save websites as favorites on our Home Screen instead. Thankfully Apple changed its mind, the App Store was born, and today we're running Photoshop apps on our iPhones. And that's not all. Our phones bring us AR experiences, language learning, live sports, real-time transport updates, radio, ebooks, and so much more. Here are some of our current favorites.

DOUBLETAKE

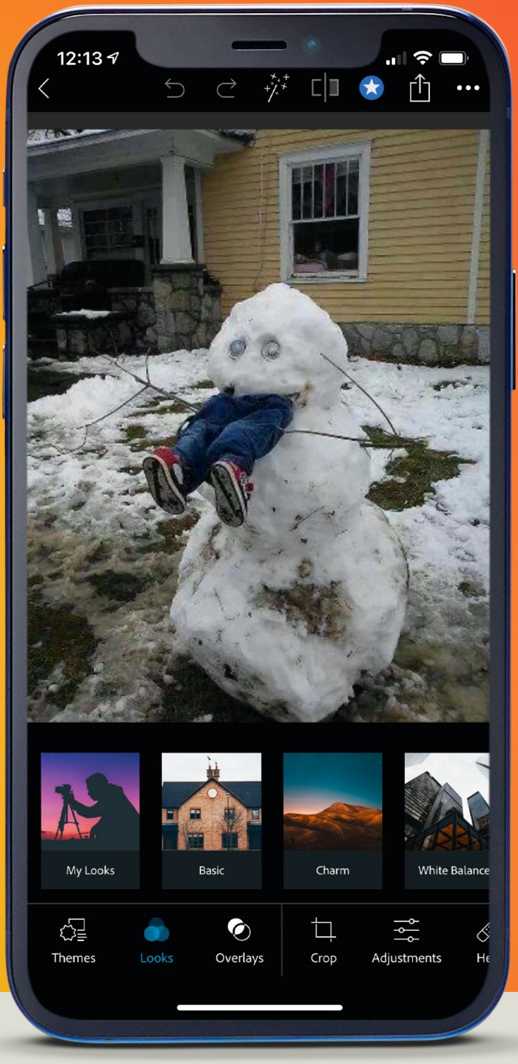
From FiLMiC, filmicpro.com
Also on iPad

> The thing about most iPhone camera apps is that they can only use one of your cameras. FiLMiC's DoubleTake can record from the front and back ones simultaneously on iPhones from the XR/XS onwards, turning your phone into a multi-camera video studio and opening up all kinds of new creative possibilities.

NIGHT SKY

From iCandi Apps, icandiapps.com
Also on Mac, iPad, Apple TV, Apple Watch

> Night Sky is one of those apps you want to show everyone. It's a stargazing app that uses augmented reality to show you what's in the skies, enabling you to identify planets, stars, constellations, satellites, and the International Space Station. It also includes great educational content about stars and planets.



PHOTOSHOP EXPRESS

From Adobe, adobe.com
Also on Mac, iPad

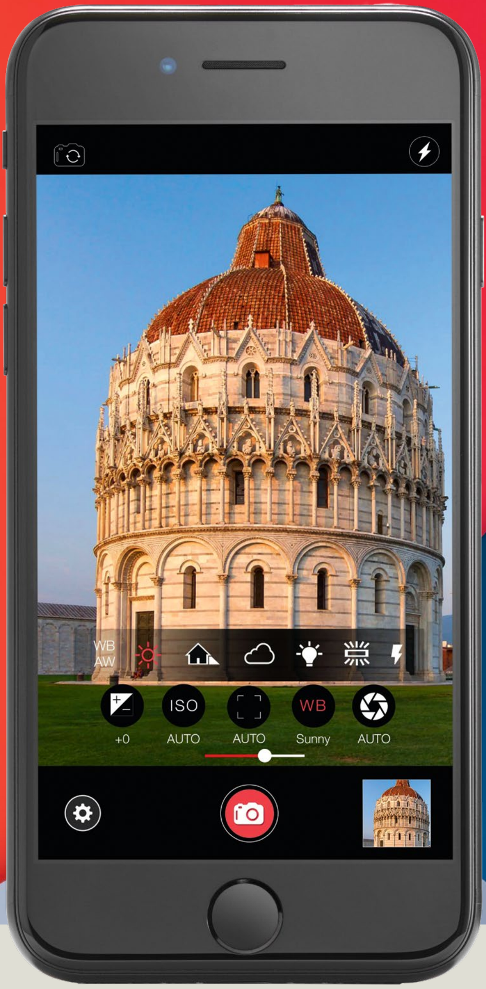
> Adobe's photo editor comes to your iPhone, although some powerful features such as advanced healing are only available to subscribers. It's still a very useful and capable image editor, though, and you can use it to combine multiple images, add backgrounds, and use themes.

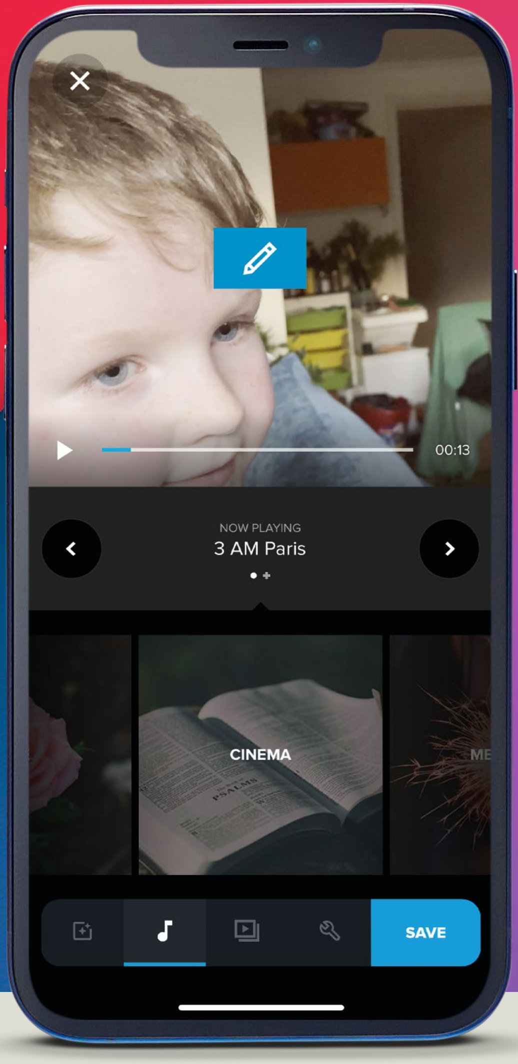
PCALC LITE

From TLA Systems, pcalc.com
Also on iPad, Apple Watch

> We prefer PCalc to the iPhone calculator, and not just because its Twilight theme gives us a nostalgia hit. It's a fully featured scientific calculator with optional RPN mode, multiple undo/redo, conversions, constants, and more. There's an Apple Watch version included and it's a great iPad option too.

Image rights clockwise from top-left: FiLMiC, Adobe Systems Incorporated, James Thomson, iCandi Apps.





PROCAM – MANUAL CONTROL CAMERA

From Loi Nguyen Van, l7mobile.com
Also on iPad

› ProCam gives you manual control of your iPhone or iPad's camera hardware for better creative control of your photos. It's easy to use, and there are even experimental tools like fill flash, focus zoom, and delayed shutter mode for longer exposures.

QUIK

From Go Pro, gopro.com **Also on** Mac

› Although it's marketed towards GoPro users, Quik is a great video app for anybody. It works with your iPhone videos and Live Photos too, enabling you to add themes and transitions, reorganize clips, speed up or slow down the footage, and reformat for social media sharing. You can even add a soundtrack.

POCKET

From Read It Later, getpocket.com
Also on iPad, Mac

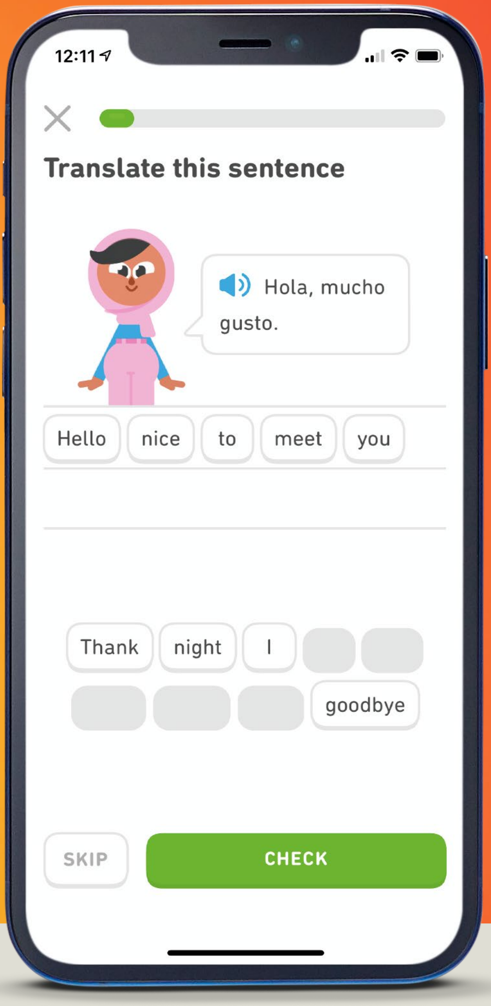
› Pocket is what Apple's Reading List wants to be when it grows up. It enables you to save almost anything from almost anywhere – web pages, news stories, social media posts, YouTube videos – then access and share it from your phone, iPad, or Mac. It's great for saving things to explore at your leisure.

ACCUWEATHER

From AccuWeather, accuweather.com
Also on iPad

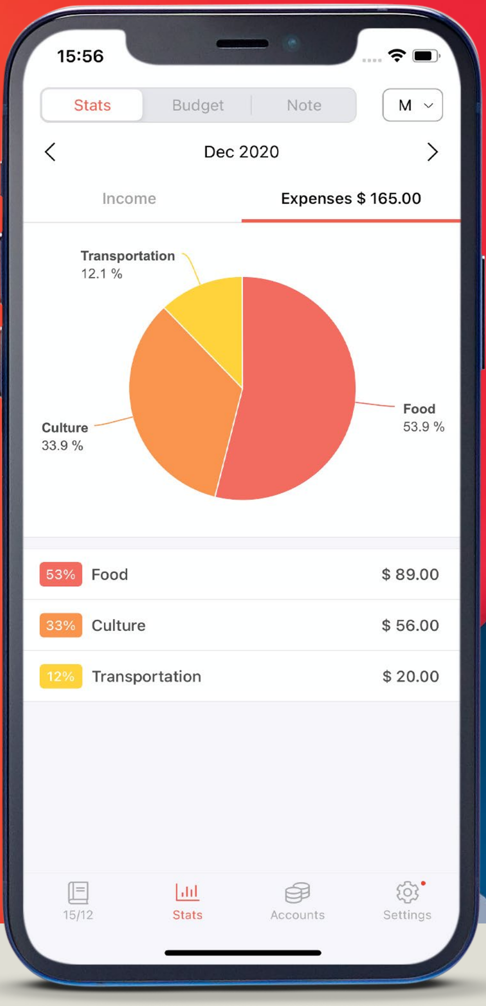
› While you could rely on old wives' tales for your local forecast, AccuWeather offers users a more science-based approach. It can tell you what's happening weather-wise anywhere between 15 days and two hours in advance. And the clever app really lives up to its name.

Image rights clockwise from top-left: L7, Go Pro Inc, AccuWeather, Read It Later.



Translate this sentence

Hola, mucho gusto.



Expenses $ 165.00

53%	Food	$ 89.00
33%	Culture	$ 56.00
12%	Transportation	$ 20.00

DUOLINGO

From Duolingo, duolingo.com
Also on iPad, Mac (via website)

> We can't be the only ones who turned to Duolingo during lockdown – if you ever need to know how to ask for a purple shirt in Spanish, hit us up. Duolingo has become a bit of a meme thanks to its passive-aggressive notifications, but with its game-style streaks to keep you motivated it's an absolutely superb app for people of any age who want to learn a new language.

MONEY MANAGER EXPENSE & BUDGET

From Realbyte Inc, realbyteapps.com
Also on iPad

> Designed to help you manage your household accounting, it lets you input your spending and costs, see stats and trends, and search and organize your finances by category. There's budget planning, the ability to connect payment cards to accounts, and set up automatic payments. The ad-free paid version provides unlimited numbers of accounts.

SPARK

From Readdle, sparkmailapp.com
Also on iPad, Mac

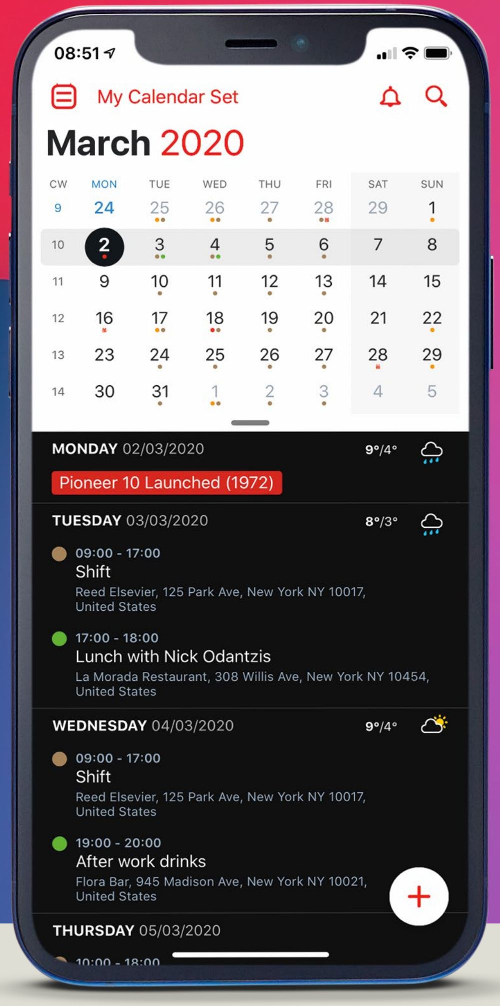
> Apple's Mail app is quite basic but Spark, which is free, is much more advanced. Tools like Smart Inbox, collaborative email composing, email scheduling and powerful search are just some of its talents. There's also extensive cloud integration, sync to Spark on your Mac, integrated calendar, and more.

OVERCAST

From Overcast Radio, overcast.fm
Also on iPad

> This powerful, simple podcast player is our go-to for listening to our ever-growing library. Smart Speed and Voice Boost make episodes quicker and clearer, the podcast management is fast and effective, and the app is clearly a labour of love. It works on Apple Watch and CarPlay too.

Image rights clockwise from top left: Duolingo Inc, Realbyte Inc, Overcast Radio LLC, Readdle Inc.



CW	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
9	24	25	26	27	28	29	1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

MONDAY 02/03/2020 9°/4°
Pioneer 10 Launched (1972)

TUESDAY 03/03/2020 8°/3°
09:00 - 17:00
Shift
Reed Elsevier, 125 Park Ave, New York NY 10017, United States
17:00 - 18:00
Lunch with Nick Odantzis
La Morada Restaurant, 308 Willis Ave, New York NY 10454, United States

WEDNESDAY 04/03/2020 9°/4°
09:00 - 17:00
Shift
Reed Elsevier, 125 Park Ave, New York NY 10017, United States
19:00 - 20:00
After work drinks
Flora Bar, 945 Madison Ave, New York NY 10021, United States

THURSDAY 05/03/2020
10:00 - 18:00

FANTASTICAL 3

From Flexibits, flexibits.com
Also on iPad, Mac

› Fantastical would really like you to take out a subscription, but the core calendar features are free. That includes natural language processing so you can create calendar entries by saying or typing things like "meeting 10am Monday with Louise calendar work." It's a superb app that syncs with your Mac and your iPad, and there are good complications for your Apple Watch too.

CLOCKIFY

From Clockify, clockify.me
Also on iPad

› Freelancers and others often need to keep precise records of time for billing purposes. With this app you can manage and track team members, categorize time by project, mark billable time, and more. It syncs data across iCloud, and you can generate visual breakdowns of time, share reports and export as PDF, CSV, and Excel.

Image rights clockwise from top right: LEAD Technologies, Spotify, Citymapper Limited, COING Inc, Flexibits.

Select Area
OCR
Options

OCR SCANNER WITH LEADTOOLS SDK

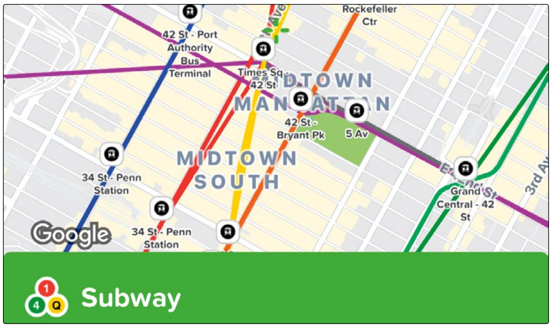
From LEAD Technologies, leadtools.com
Also on iPad, Mac

› Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanners like this convert scanned text into digital text. This app lets you capture pages and extract the text, saving out to docs like PDF, DOC, and TXT. Build multi-page docs, use text-to-speech, and work in any of 45 languages.

SPOTIFY

From Spotify, spotify.com
Also on iPad, Mac

› If you don't want to spend money on a music subscription then Spotify's advertising-funded offering is hard to beat. Its catalogue is enormous, the app is really easy and quick to use, and the ads aren't too annoying or age-inappropriate for family listening. It's particularly good for discovering new music.



CITYMAPPER

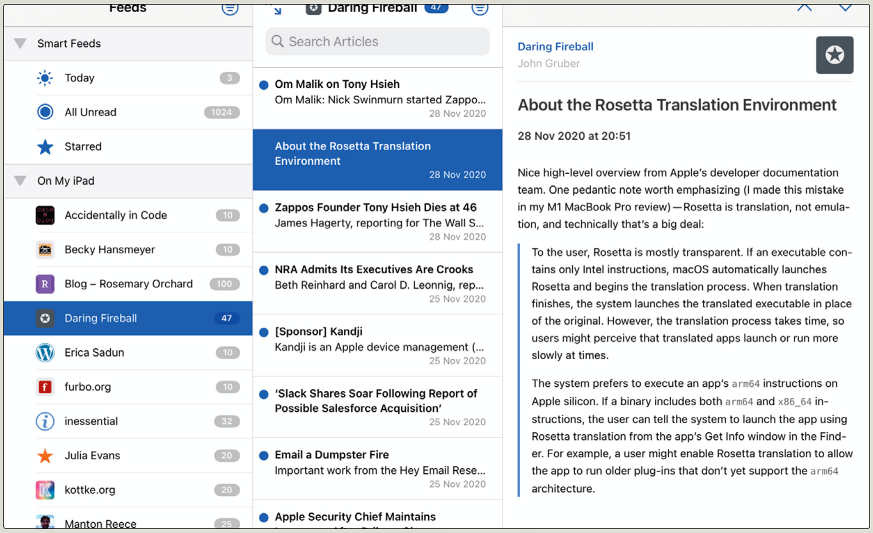
From Citymapper Limited, citymapper.com
Also on iPad

› If you live in a big city like New York, Chicago or Toronto, or travel to cities overseas, then CityMapper is a must-have. It's a one-stop app for all public transport with real-time data as well as directions for walking, driving, cycling, and even scootering. The app also includes bike- and car-sharing services.

Useful apps for your iPad

Make your iPad more capable without having to splash the cash

WHEN APPLE FIRST made the iPad, it wasn't entirely sure what it was for. The answer turns out to be: everything. It's a music-maker, document-creator, news-reader, sketchbook, photo-editor, and graphic-designer. And we haven't even mentioned the huge selection of TV apps such as catch-up TV and video streaming, or the many free games and kids' apps available for iPadOS. The free apps here will make your life easier, more entertaining, or both.



Smart Feeds
Today 3
All Unread 1024
Starred
On My iPad
Accidentally in Code 10
Becky Hansmeyer 10
Blog – Rosemary Orchard 100
Daring Fireball 47
Erica Sadun 10
furbo.org 10
inessential 32
Julia Evans 20
kottke.org 20
Manton Reece 25

Om Malik on Tony Hsieh
Om Malik: Nick Swinmurn started Zappo...
28 Nov 2020

About the Rosetta Translation Environment
28 Nov 2020

Zappos Founder Tony Hsieh Dies at 46
James Hagerty, reporting for The Wall S...
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NRA Admits Its Executives Are Crooks
Beth Reinhard and Carol D. Leonnig, rep...
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[Sponsor] Kandji
Kandji is an Apple device management (...
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'Slack Shares Soar Following Report of Possible Salesforce Acquisition'
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Email a Dumpster Fire
Important work from the Hey Email Rese...
25 Nov 2020

Apple Security Chief Maintains

Daring Fireball
John Gruber

About the Rosetta Translation Environment

28 Nov 2020 at 20:51

Nice high-level overview from Apple's developer documentation team. One pedantic note worth emphasizing (I made this mistake in my M1 MacBook Pro review) — Rosetta is translation, not emulation, and technically that's a big deal:

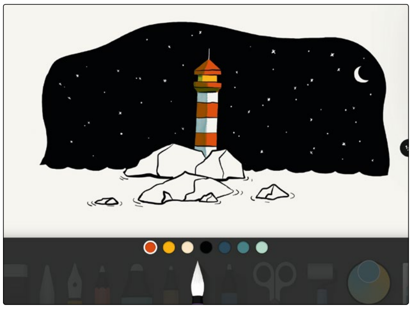
> To the user, Rosetta is mostly transparent. If an executable contains only Intel instructions, macOS automatically launches Rosetta and begins the translation process. When translation finishes, the system launches the translated executable in place of the original. However, the translation process takes time, so users might perceive that translated apps launch or run more slowly at times.
>
> The system prefers to execute an app's `arm64` instructions on Apple silicon. If a binary includes both `arm64` and `x86_64` instructions, the user can tell the system to launch the app using Rosetta translation from the app's Get Info window in the Finder. For example, a user might enable Rosetta translation to allow the app to run older plug-ins that don't yet support the `arm64` architecture.

NETNEWSWIRE

From Brent Simmons, ranchero.com/netnewswire
Also on iPhone

> The iPad is a very good reading device. However, reading things from web pages or social media can be a real pain these days with endless cookie warnings, notification requests, odd formatting, and entire jungles of adverts. RSS feeds, which are published by most blogs and major publishing platforms, strip all that out and enable you to focus on the actual words.

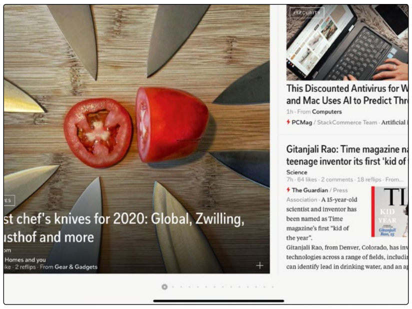
There are lots of good RSS readers out there, but not many good free ones. NetNewsWire is in very select company. It pulls feeds from as many sources as you like and delivers them in a clean and consistent way, and there are lots of features for power users to manage even massive collections. It's blazingly fast, easy to customize, and ideal for even the most serious news addict.



PAPER

From WeTransfer, paper.bywetransfer.com
Also on iPhone

> Paper is a sketching and journalling app with a difference. In addition to the usual sketching brushes it offers a range of prompts, tips and help to assist you in getting what's in your head down on Paper with speed and style.



st chef's knives for 2020: Global, Zwilling,
usthof and more
Homes and you
ike · 2 reflips · From Gear & Gadgets

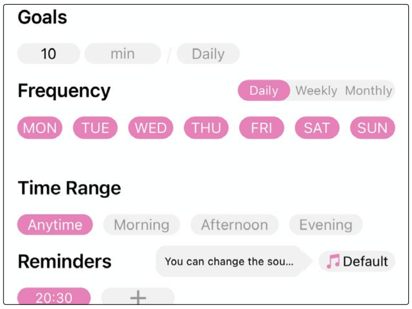
This Discounted Antivirus for W
and Mac Uses AI to Predict Thr
1h · From Computers
PCMag / StackCommerce Team · Artificial

Gitanjali Rao: Time magazine na
teenage inventor its first 'kid of
Science
7h · 64 likes · 2 comments · 18 reflips · From...
The Guardian / Press Association · A 15-year-old scientist and inventor has been named as Time magazine's first "kid of the year".
Gitanjali Rao, from Denver, Colorado, has inv
technologies across a range of fields, includi
can identify lead in drinking water, and an a

FLIPBOARD

From Flipboard, flipboard.com
Also on iPhone

> This combines RSS reading, editors' picks and your social media feeds to create a personalized and customizable news magazine. It's best on the iPad's bigger screen, where it really does feel like a magazine as you flick through.



Goals
10 min / Daily
Frequency: Daily Weekly Monthly
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN
Time Range: Anytime Morning Afternoon Evening
Reminders: You can change the sou... Default
20:30 +

HABIT TRACKER

From Davetech, intuitive.studio **Also on** iPhone

> Forming or breaking habits is easier with a little help. Set up your goals in the app then use calendar and location-based reminders and notifications to get a nudge to do the right thing. There's cloud backup and sync, and the ability to compete with friends.

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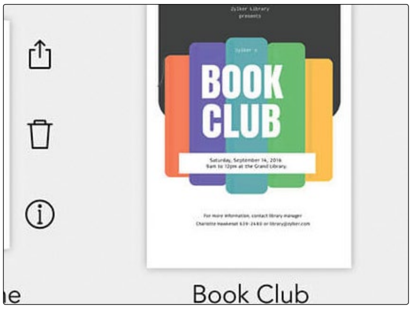
LAUNCHPAD
Future Trap
TAP
Reset: 90
Filters
Volumes
FX

LAUNCHPAD

From Ampify Music, ampifymusic.com

Also on iPhone

› We could fill an entire issue with iPad music apps, but this app from the creator of the hugely popular Novation keyboards and MIDI controllers is particularly good. Launchpad makes it really easy to create and remix electronic music, and its grid-based interface means you don't need to know how to play anything to make exciting beats and tunes. Launchpad can link with other music apps to broaden your sonic palette, and you can buy additional sound packs to bring you new beats and samples to play with. It's clearly inspired the latest version of GarageBand but Launchpad is still a brilliant app in its own right.

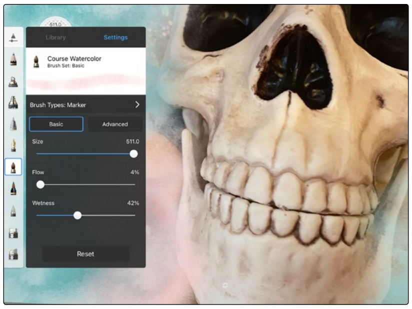


WRITER

From Zoho Corporation, zoho.com/writer/

Also on iPhone, Mac

› Import existing word processing documents or create your own. You can collaborate online, add content like images and tables, and leave comments. Best of all, every change you make is automatically saved to the cloud.

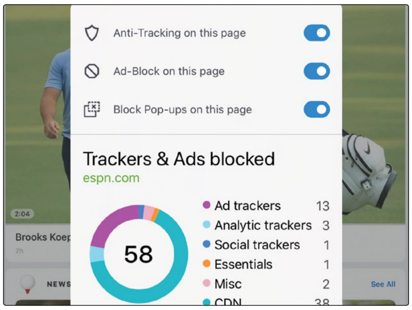


Course Watercolor
Brush Set: Basic
Brush Types: Marker
Basic | Advanced
Size 511.0
Flow 4%
Wetness 42%

AUTODESK SKETCHBOOK

From Autodesk, autodesk.com **Also on** iPhone, Mac

› Sketchbook is a wonderful natural drawing app with realistic drawing tools, including over 190 customizable brushes, cross-platform compatibility, and support for the key graphics file formats including PSD. All you need is a free AutoDesk ID, no subscription needed.



Anti-Tracking on this page ●
Ad-Block on this page ●
Block Pop-ups on this page ●

Trackers & Ads blocked
espn.com

Ad trackers	13
Analytic trackers	3
Social trackers	1
Essentials	1
Misc	2
CDN	38

GHOSTERY PRIVACY BROWSER

From Ghostery, ghostery.com

Also on iPhone, Mac

› While Safari does more than ever to protect your privacy, Ghostery goes further still, giving you more granular control over online trackers and ads while enabling you to whitelist trusted websites you're happy to support.

Image rights clockwise from top: Ampify Music, Ghostery Inc, Autodesk, Zoho Corporation Pvt. Ltd.

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The new Mac
On test:
• MacBook Air
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• Mac mini
FEATURING APPLE'S NEW SUPER FAST M1 CHIP
HOW TO:
Master Safari in Big Sur
Use Continuity Camera in Notes
Customize the Control Center
Create Smart Stacks in iOS 14
FUTURE
BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO OLD APPLE TECH
Repurpose your old Apple devices, from Mac to iPad

"*Mac|Life* is the essential magazine for Apple lovers, as beautiful as an Apple product, and packed with informative features, reviews, and tutorials."

NICK ODANTZIS,
Editor

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NEW USES FOR YOUR APPLE GEAR

Got some old Apple devices lying around gathering dust? Don't just throw them away! These creative ideas will breathe new life into them

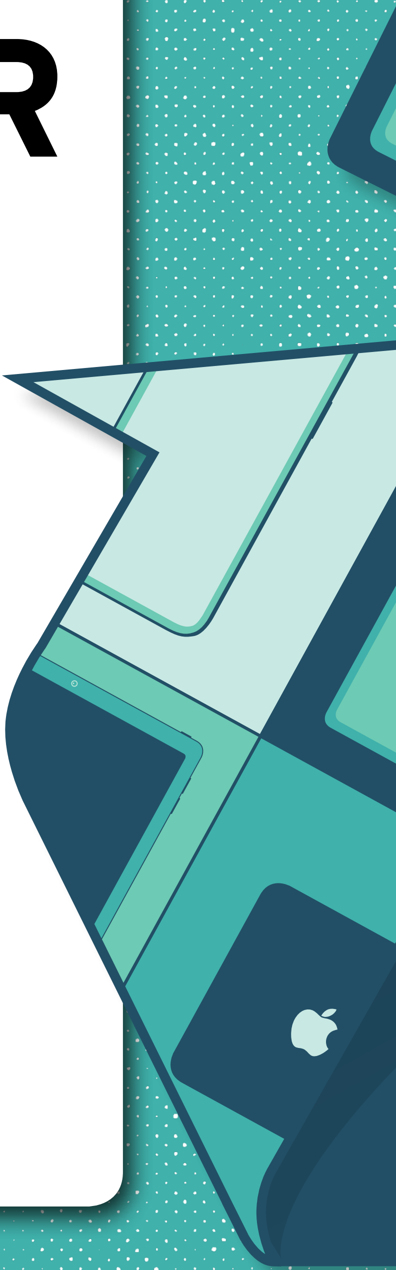
WRITTEN BY ALEX BLAKE

THE MORE TECHNOLOGY we accrue, the more obsolete devices we end up with filling our drawers and cupboards. Those ancient iPhones and iPads we keep despite them being well past their sell-by date? They may come in handy one day, we reason. That old MacBook in the corner that never gets used? It just needs a new battery and it will be right as rain, we convince ourselves. We know these stories are not true – and all the while the devices go on collecting dust and losing value.

But just because a device is old, doesn't mean it's useless. There are many ways your old Apple stuff can be repurposed, from safeguarding your valuables as a home security camera to keeping you entertained as a dedicated eBook reader or games machine. Many of the uses for old devices require only moderate power and performance, making them ideal tasks for your geriatric gear that is otherwise past its prime.

Reusing devices that have become obsolete is also a good way to save money. Instead of shelling out tens or even hundreds of dollars on new equipment, you can often achieve the same result with a few minor tweaks to your existing gear. At the same time, it means fewer items being sent to landfill, so it's good for the environment too.

Over the next few pages, we will show you the best ways you can give your old devices a new lease of life. Each method is easy and requires no tools, no fiddling, and no hassle. Just a few quick tweaks here and app downloads there, and you will be ready to go.

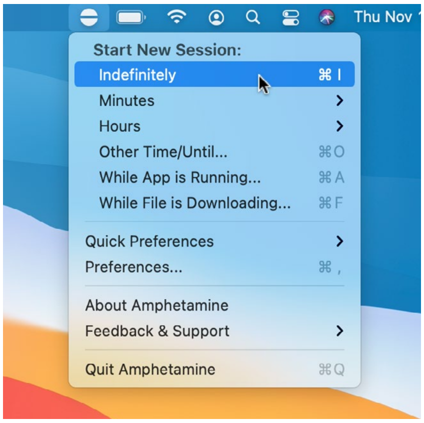


Use an old Mac as a file server

Store and send files from a central hub using the devices you already have

THESE DAYS, MANY people are going increasingly digital. What were once huge collections of DVDs, CDs and video games in physical cases can now be ripped to a Mac and served up over the internet to anyone in your house. But to do this, you need a file server.

This is a perfect role for an old Mac. File servers have very low system requirements, and even old-school Macs usually have more than enough power to serve your files throughout your house. This method is probably better suited to an old desktop Mac like a Mac mini rather than a MacBook – you need your file server to be turned on pretty much 24 hours a day, which will take a toll on battery life. A desktop Mac need not worry about this and will likely have more ports too.



The Amphetamine app can keep your Mac awake so your files are always available.

Firstly, you need to install a clean version of macOS using Recovery mode. Then open System Prefs, click Sharing, and give your Mac a useful name (like File Server Mac). Select the checkbox next to File Sharing and add any relevant folders to the Shared Folders section. You can enable sharing with a Windows PC by clicking Options.

SHARING OPTIONS

Select the checkbox next to Media Sharing to allow people to access media in apps like Music or TV. Turn on Home Sharing, and "Share media with guests" if you like. There are other options that you might want to turn on, such as Printer Sharing and Screen Sharing.

That's it for sharing options, but we're not quite finished yet. If you are on macOS Catalina or earlier, open System Preferences and click Energy Saver. Here, move the slider under "Computer sleep" all the way to the right, where it says Never. Also, deselect the checkbox next to "Put hard disks to sleep where possible." On macOS Big Sur, there's no option to disable computer sleep. Instead, an app like Amphetamine will prevent your Mac from going to sleep, meaning your files are always available.

To connect to your new server, simply open Finder, then click the server in the sidebar and connect.

Securely wipe your device

macOS

>>>When offloading a Mac, you must cleanse it to keep data safe. Save vital files to another device, then reboot into macOS Recovery (hold Cmd+R as it reboots). Click Disk Utility, then View > Show All Devices. Select the drive you want to erase, then click Erase. Keep the default settings, then click Erase again. If your Mac uses a hard drive rather than an SSD, click Security Options, move the slider to the right, click OK, then Erase (this isn't needed on SSDs).

iOS/iPadOS

>>>Erasing your iOS or iPadOS device is simple but extremely important considering how much personal data is stored on our iPhones and iPads, especially if you frequently use apps like Apple's Health. To securely wipe your device, open the Settings app, then tap General. Scroll all the way to the bottom and tap Reset, then tap Erase All Content and Settings. You may be prompted to back up things like your iCloud data. Follow the on-screen instructions and wait for the process to complete.

Image rights from top: Apple, William Gustafson.

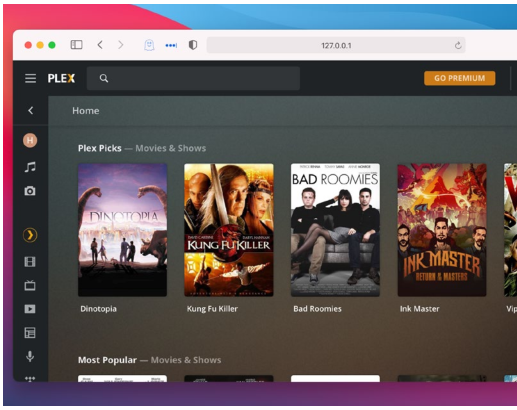
Use an old iPad as a media hub

Serving up files is not just for Macs

One of the main benefits of the iPad is its portability, and that makes it ideal for turning into a media streaming device. Once set up, you will be able to consume your media without needing to store it on your iPad.

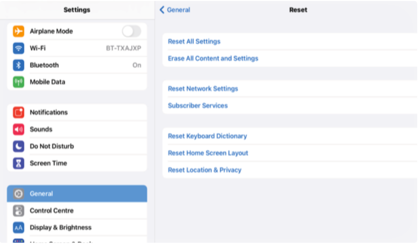
For this, you're going to need Plex, a media server app that's free to download (but we recommend unlocking it to avoid its playback limits). Once you have set up your server following our steps on the left, install the Plex Media Server app on your server Mac. Once installed, this will scan your Mac for media files; you can add more from the Libraries section in the sidebar. Make sure to create an account.

On your iPad, install the separate Plex app from the App Store. When you open the app, sign in with your account. You will now see all the media you can stream to your iPad and watch at your leisure.


127.0.0.1
PLEX
GO PREMIUM
Home
Plex Picks — Movies & Shows
Dinotopia
Kung Fu Killer
Bad Roomies
Ink Master
Most Popular — Movies & Shows

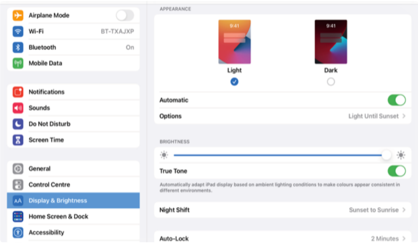
Plex is a great way to stream your media content to any Apple device in your home.

HOW TO Make an iPad a dedicated e-reader


Settings
Airplane Mode
Wi-Fi BT-TXAJXP
Bluetooth On
Mobile Data
Notifications
Sounds
Do Not Disturb
Screen Time
General
Control Centre
Display & Brightness
General
Reset
Reset All Settings
Erase All Content and Settings
Reset Network Settings
Subscriber Services
Reset Keyboard Dictionary
Reset Home Screen Layout
Reset Location & Privacy

1 Clear space for content

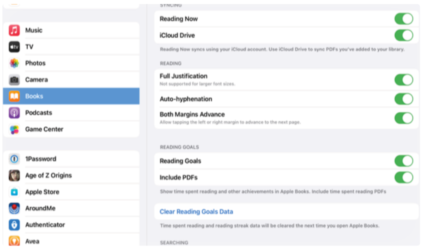
To maximize space for more books, clear out your device by doing a fresh install of iOS (Settings > General > Reset > Erase All Content and Settings), then reinstall your book apps and download your content.


Airplane Mode
Wi-Fi BT-TXAJXP
Bluetooth On
Mobile Data
Notifications
Sounds
Do Not Disturb
Screen Time
General
Control Centre
Display & Brightness
Home Screen & Dock
Accessibility
APPEARANCE
9:41
9:41
Light
Dark
Automatic
Options Light Until Sunset
BRIGHTNESS
True Tone
Night Shift Sunset to Sunrise
Auto-Lock 2 Minutes

Automatically adapt iPad display based on ambient lighting conditions to make colours appear consistent in different environments.

2 Cut out distractions

Go to Settings > Notifications and turn off notifications for any remaining apps. Now go to Display & Brightness settings and turn on True Tone and Night Shift. Finally, open Control Center and turn on Do Not Disturb.


Music
TV
Photos
Camera
Books
Podcasts
Game Center
1Password
Age of Z Origins
Apple Store
AroundMe
Authenticator
Avea
SYNCING
Reading Now
iCloud Drive
READING
Full Justification
Auto-hyphenation
Both Margins Advance
READING GOALS
Reading Goals
Include PDFs
Clear Reading Goals Data
SEARCHING

Reading Now syncs using your iCloud account. Use iCloud Drive to sync PDFs you've added to your library.

Not supported for larger font sizes.

Allow tapping the left or right margin to advance to the next page.

Show time spent reading and other achievements in Apple Books. Include time spent reading PDFs

Time spent reading and reading streak data will be cleared the next time you open Apple Books.

3 Sync to cloud storage

If your iPad is really lacking space, use a cloud storage service such as Dropbox. For iCloud Drive, go to Settings > (Your name) > iCloud, and turn on iCloud Drive and Books. Next, go to Settings > Books and turn on iCloud Drive.

››› Turn an old iPhone into a remote

Lost your Apple TV or Chromecast remote, or just want a spare? An old iPhone can perform this task admirably, saving you money on a replacement. Using an iPhone as an Apple TV remote is easy. If you are on iOS 12 or later, Apple TV controls are automatically added to Control Center when you connect to an Apple TV. On iOS 11 or earlier, go to Settings > Control Center, then tap the "+" button next to Apple TV Remote.

The options in Control Center let you control your media, navigate the Apple TV app, and access Siri.

For Google Chromecast, set up your Chromecast device and download the Google Home app to your iPhone. Ensure both devices are on the same Wi-Fi network and have Bluetooth enabled. Open Google Home and follow the instructions (if not shown, tap Add > Set up device > Set up new devices, or tap Get Started on the home screen).

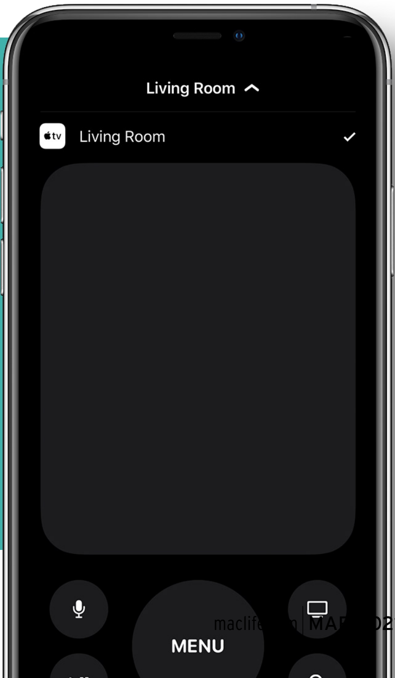

Living Room
Living Room
MENU

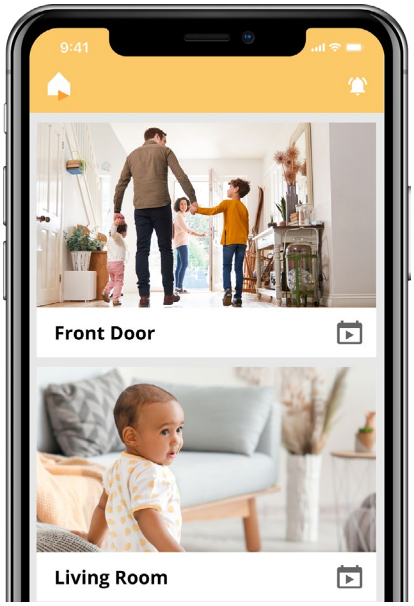
Image rights from top: Plex, Apple.

Use an old iPhone as a home security camera

Save your cash while protecting your home

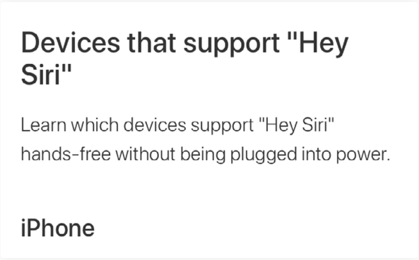
WITH GOOD LENSES and plentiful storage, old iPhones make great home security cams. Firstly, you'll want a stand for your iPhone. Ideally it will be a charging stand to keep it juiced up, but you could use an ordinary stand and plug in a cable. You might want to disguise your phone in some way, perhaps behind other objects, so it's not immediately obvious to an intruder. Finally, a wide-angle lens attachment is a good way to enlarge the field of view and ensure more coverage. Next, you will need a recording app. Alfred Home Security Camera is a good choice — it offers motion detection, a siren, a low-light filter, and more. Download the app on your current iPhone and create an account, then do the same on your old phone and log in to the same account. Then set your current phone as the Viewer and the old device as the Camera.

With Alfred you can create a Trust Circle of people in your home to prevent the app from alerting you if your housemate passes in front of the camera, for example. And the premium version includes higher-resolution recording, AI-powered person detection, more cloud storage, and a few other features.



Use a charging stand (or cable) to keep your iPhone-turned-security-cam powered up.

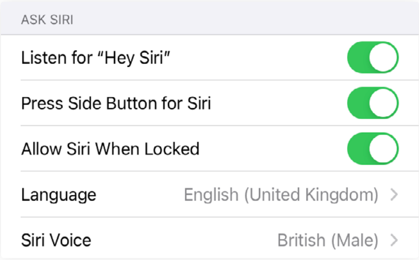
HOW TO Transform an iPhone into a smart home assistant



Devices that support "Hey Siri"

Learn which devices support "Hey Siri" hands-free without being plugged into power.

iPhone



ASK SIRI

Listen for "Hey Siri" ●
Press Side Button for Siri ●
Allow Siri When Locked ●
Language English (United Kingdom) >
Siri Voice British (Male) >

1 Check compatibility

To create an always-on home assistant we are going to use Hey Siri, but not every Apple device works with it. To check if your old device is compatible, head to bitly.com/MFHeySiri (this link is case-sensitive).

2 Keep it powered up

To ensure it's there to help when you need it, your old iPhone needs to almost always be on, so a charging dock or stand is a good idea. Put it in a handy location where it can hear you, such as near the center of a room.

3 Enable Hey Siri

Now for the voice control. In the Settings app, go to Siri & Search and enable Listen for "Hey Siri." Provided you're in earshot, your iPhone will start listening for commands whenever you say, "Hey Siri" nearby.

Image rights from top: Alfred Systems, Apple.

Transform your old iPad into a neat photo frame

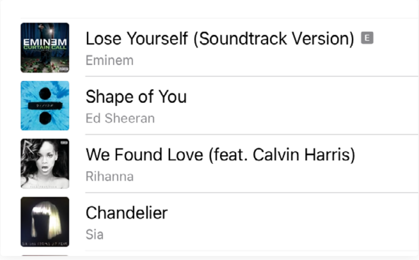
Revisit great memories with a beautiful slideshow

FIRST, GET A stand to hold your iPad in place. As the iPad will be in landscape mode, you will need a separate charging cable unless both your iPad and stand have a Smart Connector. Before starting, enable Do Not Disturb mode from Control Center. You may prefer to enable Airplane Mode to eliminate distracting notifications and preserve battery life (if you're not using a charger).

Open Photos on your iPad, tap the "+" in the top-left corner, then tap New Album. Give it a name and add the photos that you want to display on your iPad. When you're done, tap the "…" button in the top-right corner when inside the album, then tap Slideshow. Tap the Options button in the bottom-right, then turn on Repeat.

If you want to add photos from your Apple devices, open Settings on your iPad and enable Shared Albums from Settings > (Your name) > iCloud > Photos. This lets you add photos from any device that's signed in with the same iCloud account. Open Photos on your iPad, tap the "+" in the top-left corner, then tap New Shared Album. Add the photos that you want to display on your iPad, then load up Slideshow mode (as before).

Finally, using Guided Access can lock the iPad into photo-frame mode. Go to Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access and toggle the switch. Turn off Display Auto-Lock, then open the Photos app and triple-tap either the lock button or the Home button (depending on the iPad model). This will lock it in Photos mode.



Lose Yourself (Soundtrack Version) E
Eminem

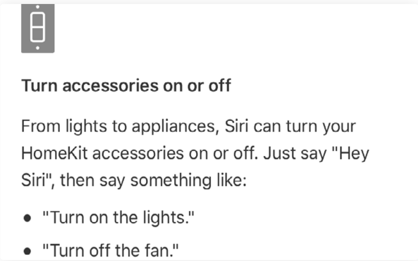
Shape of You
Ed Sheeran

We Found Love (feat. Calvin Harris)
Rihanna

Chandelier
Sia

4 What can you say?

Hey Siri works with a wide range of commands. You can say things like "Hey Siri, play my workout playlist," or "Hey Siri, what's the temperature outside?" You can use it to get directions, look up eateries, get news, and more.



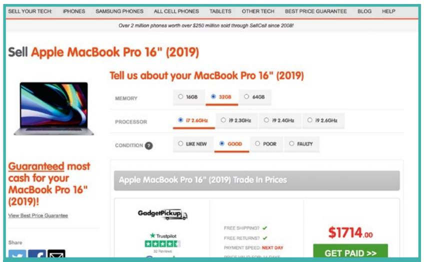
Turn accessories on or off

From lights to appliances, Siri can turn your HomeKit accessories on or off. Just say "Hey Siri", then say something like:

- "Turn on the lights."
- "Turn off the fan."

5 HomeKit integration

If you have HomeKit devices, you can control your home with your new smart assistant. Once your HomeKit devices are set up in the Home app, try saying "Set the temperature to 20°" or "Is my garage door open?"



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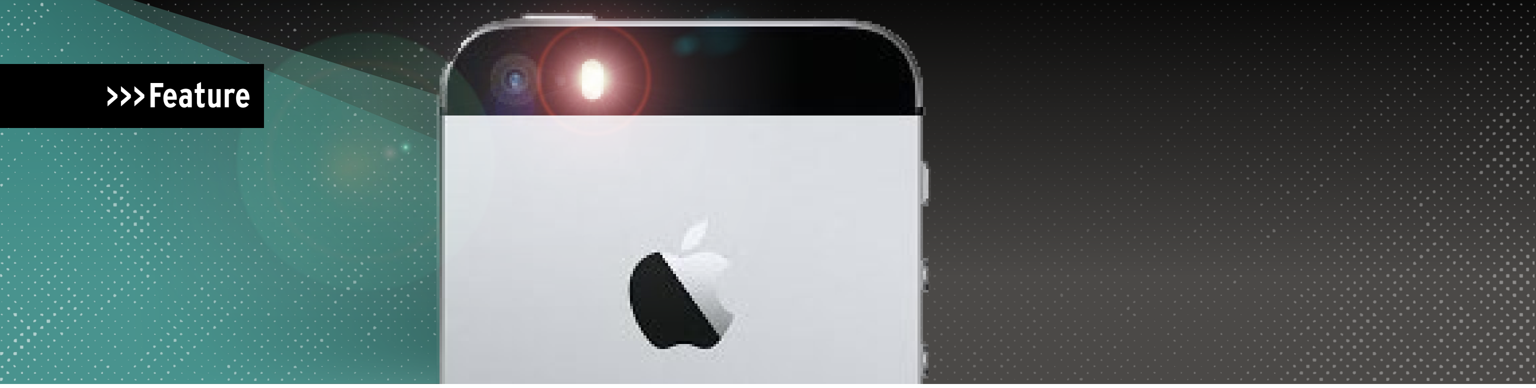
Sell, donate, part-exchange, recycle

>>> If you want to part ways with your old device, there are lots of options. For one thing, Apple offers its own trade-in service, which allows you to hand over an old device and get credit towards a new one. Apple's valuations generally are not the best on the market, so you'll probably be able to get a better price elsewhere. But if you know you're going to buy something new from Apple, it can be a more convenient option than trying to sell your device separately.

An alternative is to sell your device on eBay. To ensure you do not go in blind, always check to see how much similar devices go for before listing your item. To do this, search for your device on eBay, but only display auction results. Next, sort the results by "Ending soonest." That way you can see how much people are actually willing to bid for your device, rather than looking at Buy it Now results, which are often priced too high and don't reflect the true selling price.

The third option is to use sites that pay you for your old devices, like Best Buy Trade-In. A comparison website like Sellcell.com compares trade-in prices from a large range of recyclers and traders, enabling you to get the best price without spending an age searching each site individually.

Image rights from top left: Apple, Sell Cell.



Boost your webcam with an iPhone

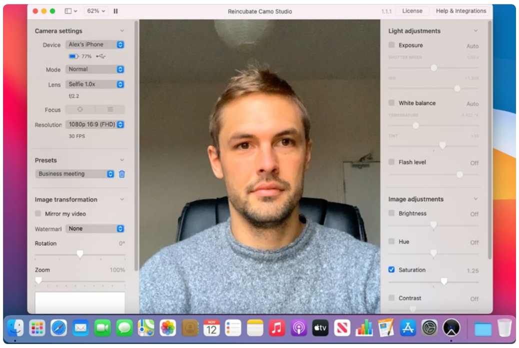
It'll be better than the camera on your Mac

MACS ARE GREAT, but their webcams leave a lot to be desired — even an old iPhone likely has a better set of lenses than your Mac. In issue 176 we showed you how to turn an old iPhone into a Mac webcam using the free Camo app. Not only is it a great way to improve your video call quality, but it can help put an old device to good use instead of just throwing it away.

To get started, download Camo from reincubate.com on your Mac and the App Store on your iPhone. Connect your phone to your Mac with a cable, then launch Camo on both devices. You should see Camo working as a camera app on your iPhone. Now all that is left is to mount your iPhone in place with a stand and configure your video-calling app's settings to mark Camo as your camera input.

The beauty of Camo is the large range of controls it puts at your fingertips. You can set it to use your iPhone's rear lenses for the best quality, or its selfie camera so you can monitor your video in real time.

There are settings to use the flash to brighten things up, adjust the video resolution if you need to save bandwidth, and manually tweak the focus point. If you need deeper controls, Camo lets you alter brightness, color temperature, tint, shutter speed, and more. These particular features require a Pro subscription (around $45), but the free version alone can massively improve the quality of your video calls.



Reincubate Camo Studio

Camera settings
Device: Alex's iPhone
77%
Mode: Normal
Lens: Selfie 1.0x
f/2.2
Focus
Resolution: 1080p 16:9 (FHD)
30 FPS

Presets
Business meeting

Image transformation
☐ Mirror my video
Watermark: None
Rotation: 0°
Zoom: 100%

Light adjustments
☐ Exposure: Auto
☐ White balance: Auto
☐ Flash level: Off

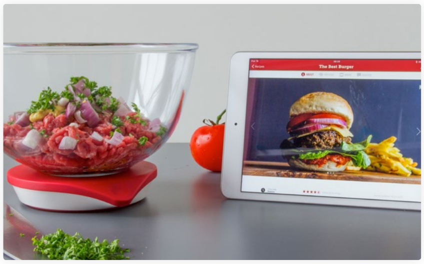
Image adjustments
☐ Brightness: Off
☐ Hue: Off
☑ Saturation: 1.25
☐ Contrast: Off

Camo uses your iPhone's cameras to offer much better picture quality than your Mac's standard webcam.

HOW TO Turn your iPad into a recipe book

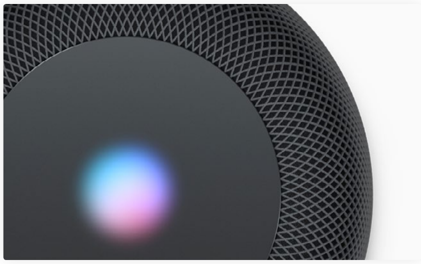
1 Avoid the smears

To prevent grubby fingers fouling up your iPad's large, recipe-friendly screen, get a wall or table mount. Siri can also help. You can ask it to convert measurements for you, set timers, and give you nutritional facts.



2 Drop Recipes

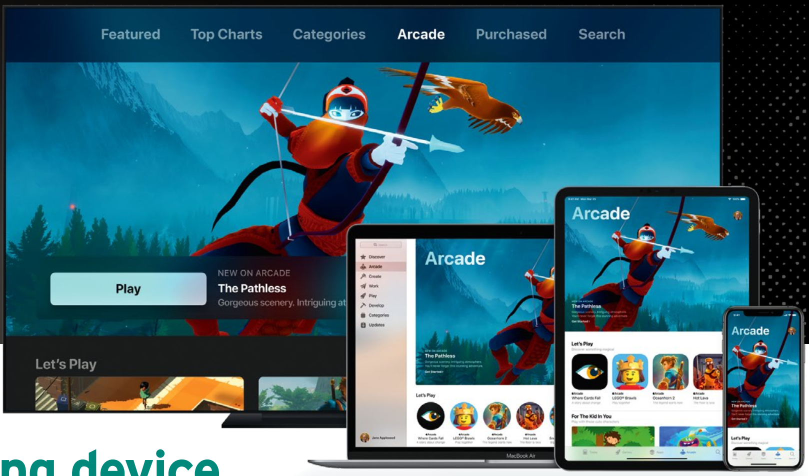
The free Drop Recipes app offers cooking instructions and then connects to smart kitchen accessories like scales and oven timers to ensure everything is cooked to perfection. It's a handy tool to have in your arsenal.



3 Set multiple timers

If you have a HomePod, you can set multiple timers and name them. Then say something like "Hey Siri, how long left on the egg timer?" On iOS, you can set multiple timers with the free Timer+ app (note: it does not work with Siri).

Image rights clockwise from top: Apple, Reincubate, Drop, Twelve South.



Apple Arcade games work on a large range of Apple devices, not just the very latest hardware.

Create a dedicated gaming device

Turn an old iPad into a games console

IF THERE'S ONE thing Apple's November event showed us, it's that the company knows how to make amazing processors. But the M1 chip in the latest Macs isn't the first of its kind – Apple has been outfitting its iPhones and iPads with its own chips ever since they first launched.

That's good news if you want to turn an old iPad into a dedicated gaming machine. Pairing its powerful A-series chip with its spacious display, lightweight portability and numerous handy accessories, the iPad is an ideal games device for portable play.

Apple Arcade ($4.99 per month) is a great place to start. Apple has explicitly said that games on the platform must work across iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple TV; that cross-compatibility means even old devices should run them well enough, as developers can't just focus their games on new, top-end devices to the detriment of everything else. All you need is a device that can run iOS/iPadOS/tvOS 13 or macOS Catalina.

As for accessories, the SteelSeries Nimbus+ works across iPhone, iPad and Apple TV, and has a built-in mount for your iPhone. Both the PlayStation 4 DualShock and Xbox wireless controllers work with iPad too. Many iPad cases let you stand your tablet on its side – ideal for use with a controller.

Fans of more traditional console gaming will likely want to connect their iPad to a TV. One way is through AirPlay 2, which allows you to send content from your iPad to an AirPlay 2-enabled smart TV (the original form of AirPlay doesn't work with smart TVs). You'll also need an iPad that runs iOS 12.3 or later. Or you can buy a Chromecast dongle and plug it in to your TV, although the range of compatible games is a bit limited.

As for cables and adapters, Apple offers a variety, such as the Lightning Digital AV Adapter or Lightning to VGA Adapter. Plugging your iPad directly into your TV works best when you're using a wireless controller, as there's no need to keep looking down at your iPad for the touch controls.

steelseries
Y
X
B
A

The SteelSeries Nimbus+ works with iOS devices and Apple TV.

Upcycle your old Apple devices

Feeling creative? Your old devices don't have to be destined for the scrap heap. With a little ingenuity, you can turn them into clever creations around your home. For example, an old CRT-equipped iMac G3, with its spacious body and large screen, can make an interesting home for small pets once its insides have been cleared out. The same could be said for the Power Mac G5 – seal its edges, cut away its internal divisions and install a window panel and you have a unique fish tank. The iMac G4's base and arm can be formed into an unusual desk lamp, and the back of an old MacBook's lid, complete with Apple logo, could be made into a clock for your wall.

Granted, cutting up your old gear means you can't sell it to anyone who wants a working device, but your interesting new home decorations are sure to spark plenty of conversations.

You could try remodelling an old iMac G4 base into a statement lamp like this.

Image rights: SteelSeries, It's A Light.

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REVIEWS

TOUGH TESTING, TRUSTED RATINGS

HERE AT MAC|LIFE we believe you should only buy the things that you really need, which is why our Reviews section is so important to us, and you. We don't want you to waste time and money on inferior products, and while we aim to include only the best hardware and apps, occasionally we like to include products that look promising, even if they don't always deliver.

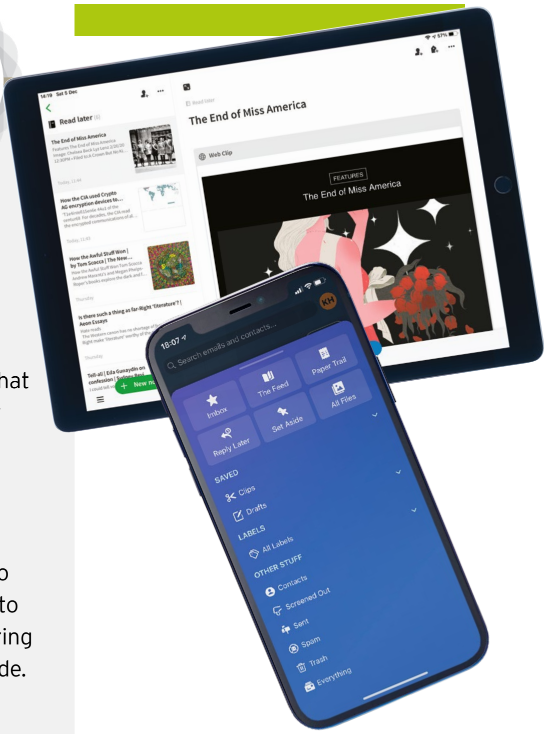
We only use carefully selected experts, with specialist knowledge in their respective field, so no matter which review you're reading, you can be confident the person who's tested it knows their stuff, allowing you to make an informed purchase.

Each review is rated using a five–star system, with half stars, which is easy to understand because we give an explanation next to each one. The products that really stand out, those with a five–star rating, get a *Mac|Life* Editor's Choice award.

Mac|Life EDITORS' CHOICE

Only the best…

The products that really stand out in the mag – those that receive a five-star rating – get the *Mac|Life* Editor's Choice award. It doesn't get any better than this, so you'd be mad not to buy anything bearing this mighty accolade.



Hardware & macOS apps

38 **MacBook Air**

42 **MacBook Pro**

44 **Mac mini**

46 **Ulysses 21**

48 **Corsair TBT100 Thunderbolt 3 Dock**

49 **Sparkle 3**

49 **Wifi Explorer**

50 **Logitech Circle View**

52 **AirBuddy 2**

53 **Belkin SoundForm Elite**

54 **Adobe Premiere Elements 2021**

56 **Group Test: GaN chargers**

App|Life

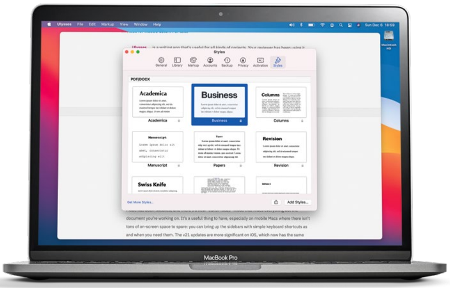
62 **Evernote 10**

64 **Flow by Moleskine Studio 2**

65 **HEY Email**

66 **Six apps for online privacy**

68 **Best of the best**
Mac|Life's pick of the best apps



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MacBook Air (13-inch, late-2020)

Apple's first post-Intel MacBook is here – and it flies, mostly...

From $999 **From** Apple, apple.com

Features 13.3-inch Retina display (2560x1600), Apple M1 chip, 8GB unified memory (16GB available), 256GB storage (512GB, 1TB, and 2TB available), 802.11ax Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.0, 2x Thunderbolt/USB 4 ports

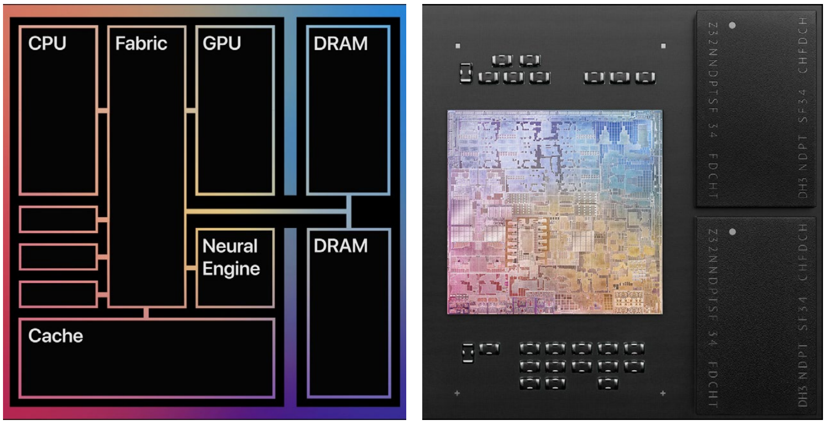
This is what the future feels like – Apple has taken its most popular MacBook and rather than give it a superficial makeover it has radically altered what's inside. Say goodbye Intel, hello Apple silicon – and the most radical change to the computers we love in over 15 years.

The late-2020 MacBook Air is the first of three new Macs to be powered by Apple's M1 – a System on Chip (SoC) that takes all the know-how Apple has acquired through its experiences with iPhone and iPad and applied it to its new computers. The M1 comprises eight CPU cores, a choice of seven or eight GPU cores (depending on model) and a 16-core Neural Engine to deliver an astonishing level of performance for an entry-level laptop. It also delivers up to 18 hours of battery life.

True, traditionalists will balk at the "lowly" choice of 8GB or 16GB of memory on these machines (plus a complete inability to upgrade it later), but that misses the point. The M1 SoCs inside the MacBook Air, 13-inch MacBook Pro and new Mac mini all use Apple's Unified Memory Architecture (UMA) to share that memory between the CPU and the GPU and the Neural Engine incredibly efficiently. The result here is that the new MacBook Air is up to 3.5x faster, has 5x faster graphics and 9x faster machine learning capabilities than its Intel-powered predecessor – and its solid-state storage is now 2x faster too.

Those are the headline numbers, but before we look at the MacBook Air's real-world performance, lets take a quick look at what else is on offer in this late-2020 update.

Outwardly little has changed – the 2020 MacBook Air boasts the same 100% recycled aluminium shell, measuring 11.97x8.36x0.63in and weighing 2.84lb. It also comes with the same size 13.3-inch Retina display with a resolution of 2560x1600 pixels, although it now supports the P3 color gamut, a feature that was previously only available on the MacBook Pro. The new MacBook Air also retains its two Thunderbolt/USB-C ports



The M1 combines the CPU, GPU, Neural Engine and memory into a single System on Chip (SoC), just like an iPad.

Image rights: Apple.

on the left-hand side (although these have been upgraded to Thunderbolt/USB-C 4) and has a 3.5mm headphone jack on the right-hand side.

Like the previous model, the late-2020 MacBook Air also comes with Apple's Magic Keyboard, which offers 1.2mm of key travel, plus a power button with Touch ID for secure logins using your fingerprint. Disappointingly for Zoomers, the FaceTime camera remains stuck at 720p – although image signal processing helps improve the video quality.

The late-2020 MacBook Air is available in two different guises: $999 gets you an M1-equipped entry-level model with an eight-core CPU, seven-core GPU and 8GB of memory, plus a 256GB solid-state drive (SSD). The step-up model costs $1,249 and includes an eight-core CPU, eight-core GPU and also has 8GB of memory, plus a 512GB SSD. Both models come with 802.11ax Wi-Fi (aka Wi-Fi 6) and Bluetooth 5.0. You can configure either machine with more memory and storage if you need it: 16GB of memory will set you back an extra $200, while the additional storage cost varies by model. On the entry-level $999 model, 1TB of storage will cost you an extra $400, rising to $800 for 2TB. On the step-up $1,249 model, a 1TB SSD costs $200 and a 2TB one will set you back $600.

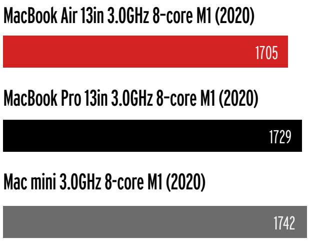
IT STARTS FROM COLD IN SECONDS, WAKES FROM SLEEP EVEN FASTER AND LAUNCHES APPS QUICKLY

Benchmarks: Our analysis explained

> GEEKBENCH 5 SINGLE-CORE TEST

This tests the capability of a single processor core. Many more common tasks on a Mac will only use a single core at a time. Geekbench 5 is universal app running on Big Sur.

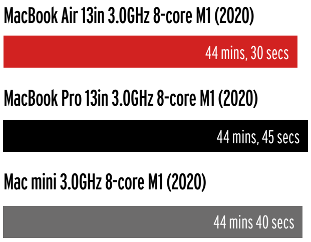
Index score (higher is better)



> HANDBRAKE VIDEO ENCODING

We transcode a Blu-ray-quality video file into H.264 format using HandBrake to test the multicore processor performance. Handbrake hasn't yet been optimized for the M1.

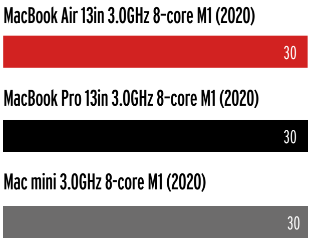
Duration (lower is better)



> TOMB RAIDER (1920X1080)

For a real-world gaming test, we use the benchmarking tool in this game, with the graphics quality set to High and the resolution set to 1920x1080. No yet optimized for M1.

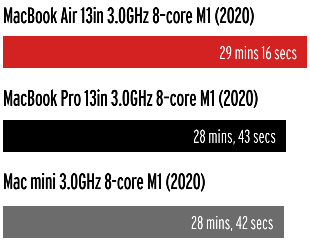
Frames per second (higher is better)



> DAVINCI RESOLVE

In Blackmagic Design's editing tool for video professionals, we exported an effects-laden, 2.5-minute project to the H.264 format. Version 15 of the app doesn't run natively on the M1, so runs under Rosetta 2.

Duration (lower is better)



Most of the changes to the 2020 MacBook Air are under the surface – outwardly very little has changed.

Opposite page: The new machine has two Thunderbolt/ USB-C 4 ports.

PERFORMANCE

Now this is what we're all really here for and we're pleased to report that the new MacBook Air really flies. It starts from cold in seconds, wakes from sleep even faster and launches apps so quickly, they're open and ready to start work before the cursor has even left the Dock. While the previous MacBook Air's performance was best described as leisurely, this thing sings. It's easily the best MacBook Air Apple has ever made in performance terms. Now the caveats.

As you'll see from the benchmarks on the left, the M1 MacBook Air performs better at some tasks than others. Its Geekbench 5 score of 1705 puts it ahead of a 27-inch iMac with a 3.6GHz 10-core Intel Core i9, which scored 1365 (ML173). However, it also ran Handbrake more slowly, transcoding our one-hour video in 59 minutes versus the iMac's 23 minutes. In *Rise Of The Tomb Raider* it fared poorly too, chalking up a stuttering 21 frames per second (fps) versus the iMac's 59fps. It also took 29 minutes 16 seconds to render our 2.5-minute effects-laden video, whereas the iMac took nine minutes 19 seconds. It's important to note, though, that Handbrake, *Tomb Raider* and Resolve are all running in emulation under Rosetta 2. Only Geekbench 5 has been optimized for the new M1. Compare and contrast the late-2020 MacBook Air scores, with the 2019 model (where DaVinci Resolve took two hours and *Tomb Raider* managed 6fps) and the difference is clear: Apple silicon is clearly the direction of travel and we're happy to jump on board. **ROB MEAD-GREEN**

MACBOOK AIR (13IN, LATE-2020)

- + Surprisingly quick
- + 2x faster SSD
- + Ideal for everyday computing tasks
- − Not enough grunt for demanding jobs

AWESOME ■■■■■

MacBook Pro (13-inch)

Apple's flagship is no longer the big upgrade it once was

$1,299 **From** Apple, apple.com

Features 13.3-inch Retina display (2560x1600 resolution), Apple M1 chip, 8GB unified memory (16GB available), 256GB storage (512GB/1TB/2TB available), 802.11ax Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.0, 2x Thunderbolt/USB 4 ports, headphone socket

While there's a huge difference in performance between the late-2020 MacBook Air and its Intel-driven forebear, the difference between the Air and the new 13-inch MacBook Pro feels more nuanced, chiefly because the two laptops have much in common – at least on paper.

With a starting price of $1,299, the new 13-inch MacBook Pro also comes with an M1 system on a chip (SoC), complete with eight CPU cores and a 16-core Neural Engine, although this time the GPU boasts eight-cores as standard rather than the entry-level Air's seven. Like the MacBook Air, the entry-level 13-inch Pro also comes with 256GB of storage and 8GB of memory. For more, you'll either need to up the memory to 16GB, or delve into the configuration options to increase the size of the SSD – to 512GB, 1TB, or 2TB. Even at the upper limit, though, that's a big step down from the maximum of 4TB of the previous-generation Intel models, which are still available at $1,799 and $1,999, depending on configuration.

Luckily, there are a few other things that distinguish the 13-inch MacBook Pro from the MacBook Air. First, there's design, of course, which is unchanged from the previous gen and retains the controversial Touch Bar. Second is that – unlike the Air – the Pro includes a fan. This means in theory that the MacBook Pro is more capable of sustained rather than peak performance, although that didn't necessarily translate into improved scores in our benchmarks.

In Handbrake, the MacBook Pro transcoded our one-hour Blu-ray-quality video in just under 45 minutes, about the same time as the Air, and in our DaVinci Resolve rendering test it hit the mark at 28 minutes, 42 seconds versus 29 minutes, 16 seconds for the Air.

In *Rise Of The Tomb Raider* too, the Pro's 30 frames per second (fps) score matched a practically identical score by the Air, while its Geekbench 5 score was marginally better, achieving 1,729 points against the Air's 1,705.

The similarity in the test results shouldn't be too surprising, given that they're based on practically identical hardware. However, the Pro does have a slight edge on battery life, lasting for up to 20 hours versus the Air's 18.

Like the MacBook Air, the 13-inch MacBook Pro proves to be similarly quick in operation, with rapid startup times, instant wake from sleep and fast app launches – for the most part. With the difference between the 13-inch MacBook Pro and MacBook Air now narrower than ever, the Air will be the better buy for most people.

THE BOTTOM LINE. The M1-equipped Pro is more powerful than the Air, but only just. We still want one, though. **ROB MEAD-GREEN**

MACBOOK PRO (13-INCH)

+ Improved M1 performance
+ Longer battery life
− Same old Touch Bar
− Pricier than the Air

GREAT ■■■■□

The 13-inch MacBook Pro is more capable of sustained performance during intensive tasks than the 13-inch Air.

Mac mini

The M1-powered desktop that's much faster than you think

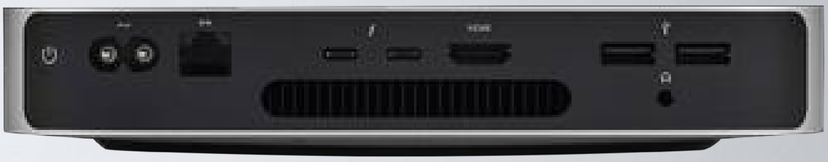
$699 **From** Apple, apple.com

Features M1 chip, 8GB of memory (16GB option), 256GB SSD (512GB/1TB/2TB options), 802.11ax Wi-Fi, 2x Thunderbolt/USB 4

Apple's third M1 Mac is the new Silver-clad Mac mini, which at $699 is the cheapest way for anyone to jump on the Apple silicon bandwagon. The new model is $100 less than its entry-level Intel predecessor and there's an obvious reason for that. While the previous Intel-powered Mac mini came with four Thunderbolt/USB 3 ports, the M1 Mac mini makes do with two (albeit Thunderbolt/USB 4). It also eschews the optional 10GB Ethernet upgrade available in the Intel model in favor of plain old Gigabit Ethernet. And like the MacBook Air and 13-inch MacBook Pro, the Mac mini offers a choice of 8GB or 16GB of unified memory, with solid-state storage of 256GB (upgradeable to 512GB, 1TB, or 2TB) and is driven by an eight-core CPU, eight-core GPU and 16-core Neural Engine-equipped Apple M1.

If you need more desktop "power" than that, Apple still sells the Space Grey Intel version, with prices starting at $1,099 for an eighth-gen, 3.0GHz Intel Core i5 with Intel UHD Graphics 630, 8GB of memory, and 512GB of storage.

However, just like Apple's other M1 Macs, the same superlatives apply– the M1 is quick to boot, offers instant wake from sleep and launches most apps in a trice. You'll certainly see a lot less of the dreaded beachball. That's borne out by our suite of benchmarking tests – like the MacBook Air and 13-inch MacBook Pro, the Mac mini ripped through our one-hour video Handbrake transcoding task in 45 minutes, rendered the effect-laden video in DaVinci Resolve in 28 minutes and



consistently hit 30 frames per second (fps) in *Rise Of The Tomb Raider*, despite the fact that the game is running in emulation under Rosetta 2. In Geekbench 5, it averaged 1,740 points in the single-core test, beating the 1,365 points of the 10-core Intel Core i9 equipped 27-inch iMac by 375.

Like the other M1 Macs, the Mac mini aced Blackmagic's Disk Speed Test too, clocking up average read speeds of 2,890Mbps and write speeds of 2,322Mbps, making shuttling files around on the mini a snap. And, of course, the mini is still great as a media server thanks to its built-in HDMI port, 802.11ax Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 5.0 – although the less said about its puny built-in speaker the better. Luckily, it still has a 3.5mm audio jack.

It's not all plain sailing for the M1 Macs, though. None of the new machines, including the Mac mini, support external GPUs (eGPUs); you obviously can't use them to run Windows 10 apps (via Boot Camp); and Apple has done nothing with the extra wriggle room available inside. Indeed, the teardown carried out by our friends at iFixit revealed there's even more space available inside the mini than before thanks to an even smaller logic board and Apple's use of its own unified memory architecture rather than having discrete memory modules like in the Intel version. Apple could have festooned the machine with more storage, ports or even made it more upgradeable – most of the components are soldered, meaning you have to configure the machine when you buy it. Maybe next time?

THE BOTTOM LINE. The M1 Mac mini delivers an incredible amount of power for the money – sold! **ROB MEAD-GREEN**

The M1 Mac mini includes two Thunderbolt/USB 4 ports and Gigabit Ethernet.

The M1-powered Mac mini is $100 cheaper than its Intel predecessor, but it's arguably more limited too.

MAC MINI

- + The cheapest way to buy an M1 Mac
- + Ground-breaking performance
- − 2x Thunderbolt ports
- − Not possible to upgrade after purchase

EXCELLENT ■■■■▮

Mac|Life EDITORS' CHOICE

Ulysses enables you to have as many or as few on-screen options as you like.

Ulysses 21

The ultimate writing app?

$49.99/per year **From** Ulysses, ulysses.app

Needs macOS 10.14.4 or later

Ulysses is a writing app that's useful for all kinds of projects. Your reviewer has been using it every day since version 3 in 2015, and it's no exaggeration to say it's been used to write millions of words: words pasted as rich text into CMSes, words exported as Word documents to corporate clients, words published in books, words uploaded to blogging platforms and, of course, words printed in quality magazines like the one in your hands.

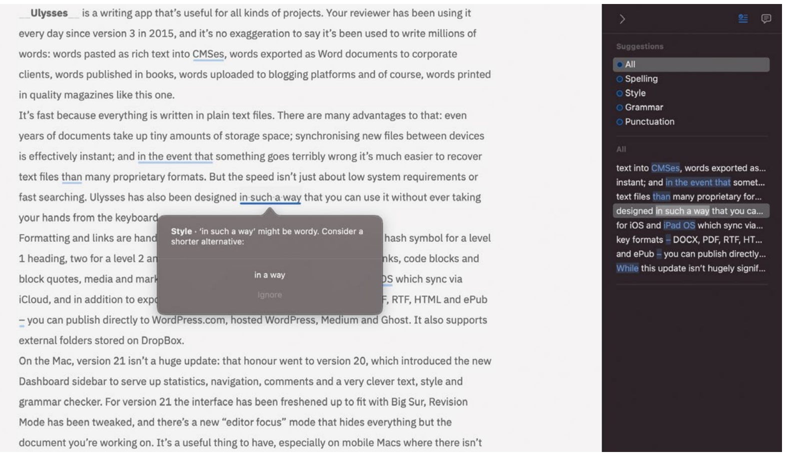
It's fast because everything is written in plain text files. There are many advantages to that: even years of documents take up tiny amounts of storage space; synchronizing new files between devices is effectively instant; and in the event that something goes terribly wrong it's much easier to recover text files than many proprietary formats. But the speed isn't just about low system requirements or fast searching. Ulysses has also been designed in such a way that

ULYSSES 21

- + Exceptionally fast
- + Extremely flexible
- + Great Revision Mode
- − Can't edit templates

AWESOME ■■■■■

Image rights: Ulysses.



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Formatting and links are hand hash symbol for a level 1 heading, two for a level 2 an nks, code blocks and block quotes, media and mark DS which sync via iCloud, and in addition to expo F, RTF, HTML and ePub – you can publish directly to WordPress.com, hosted WordPress, Medium and Ghost. It also supports external folders stored on DropBox.

Style · 'in such a way' might be wordy. Consider a shorter alternative:

in a way

Ignore

On the Mac, version 21 isn't a huge update: that honour went to version 20, which introduced the new Dashboard sidebar to serve up statistics, navigation, comments and a very clever text, style and grammar checker. For version 21 the interface has been freshened up to fit with Big Sur, Revision Mode has been tweaked, and there's a new "editor focus" mode that hides everything but the document you're working on. It's a useful thing to have, especially on mobile Macs where there isn't

text into CMSes, words exported as...
instant; and in the event that somet...
text files than many proprietary for...
designed in such a way that you ca...
for iOS and iPad OS which sync via...
key formats – DOCX, PDF, RTF, HT...
and ePub – you can publish directly...
While this update isn't hugely signif...

Revision Mode includes a genuinely useful language checker and helper.

you can use it without ever taking your hands from the keyboard.

Formatting and links are handled with Markdown commands, so you'd put one hash symbol for a level 1 heading, two for a level 2, and so on. It supports all the essentials: lists and links, code blocks and block quotes, media, and markup. There are companion apps for iOS and iPad OS which sync via iCloud, and in addition to exporting and sharing in the key formats — DOCX, PDF, RTF, HTML and ePub — you can publish directly to WordPress.com, hosted WordPress, Medium, and Ghost. It also supports external folders stored on DropBox.

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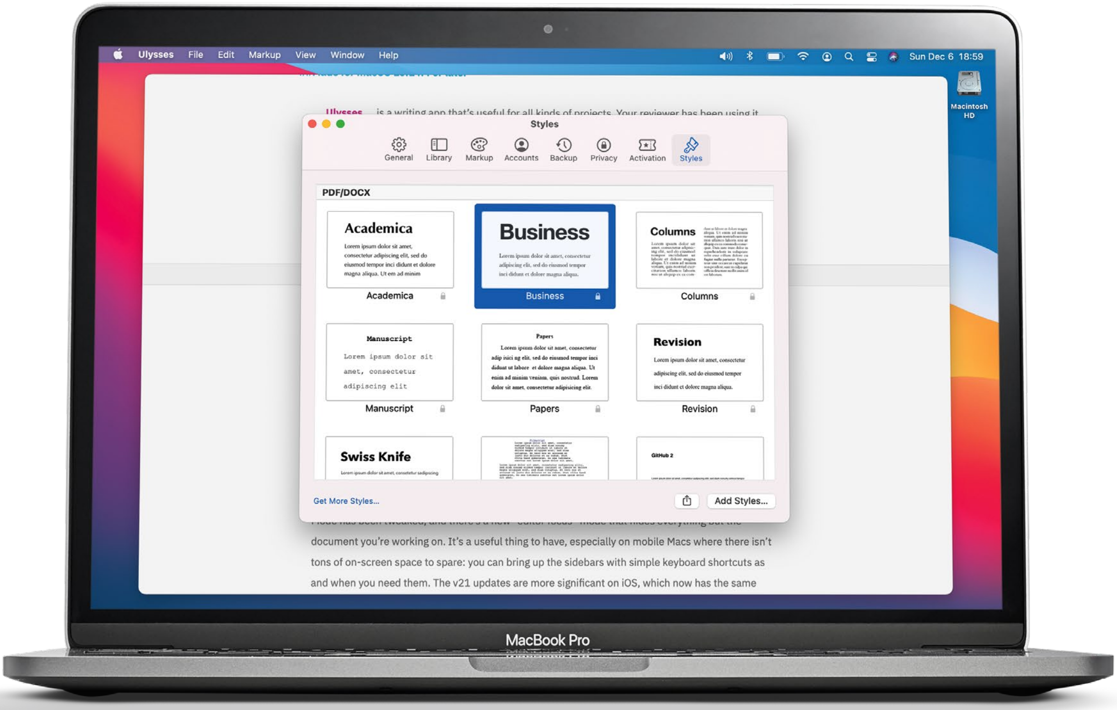
Ulysses' ongoing cost may be an issue for some users: there's no light version and the only option is a $49.99 annual, multi–device subscription. Rivals such as Scrivener ($48.99) or iA Writer ($29.99) are a one–off purchase, although their iOS and iPadOS apps cost extra.

THE BOTTOM LINE. Ulysses has evolved into something very powerful, very useful, and very flexible. Its speed, minimal system requirements and keyboard focus mean it's very fast. And the export options and Copy As features are very useful for getting your words into any format. It's a superb app for busy writers of any kind. **CARRIE MARSHALL**



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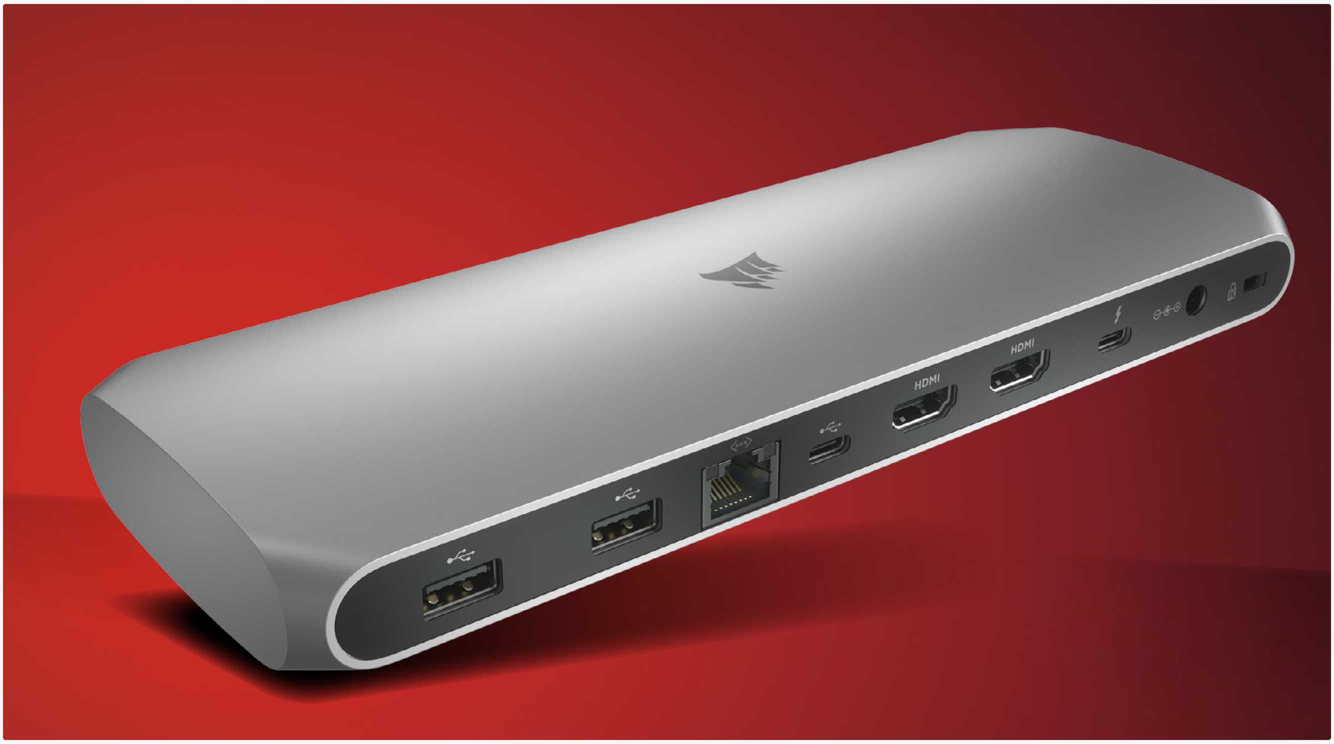
There are lots of export templates but no built-in way to edit them.

Image rights: Ulysses.



Expand the range of devices connected to your Thunderbolt Mac via one cable.

Corsair TBT100 Thunderbolt 3 Dock

A stylish, diminutive dock for power and connectivity

$259.99 **From** Corsair, corsair.com

Features 2x HDMI, 2x USB-A, 2x USB-C, Thunderbolt 3, Gigabit Ethernet, 85W charging

The Corsair TBT100 is a multi-port dock that can also supply up to 85W of power to your laptop as well as up to 15W to its USB-C ports and 7.5W to its USB-A ports. It manages this thanks to the inclusion of a hefty 100W power supply unit which plugs into the rear panel, and can live a little way apart from the dock, reducing clutter.

The dock itself is well-built and low-profile, with slip-proof rubber feet on the underside. The front edge features a power button, an SDXC memory card reader, a USB-C port and a combo headphone and mic jack, all of which are ports to which you usually need easy access. A USB-A on the front for older thumb drives is eschewed in favour of the newer USB-C format.

The Thunderbolt port on the rear panel carries both data and power to your Mac, and there's a high-speed cable included in the box as well as US- and UK-compatible wall plugs. You get two HDMI 2 out ports that can drive dual displays at up to 4K at 60Hz, and a Gigabit Ethernet port for fast networking. A second USB-C port and dual USB-A sockets round out the ins and outs, plus there's a Kensington lock port for security.

The TBT100 provides a good selection of expansion ports for a range of users and has the added benefit of powering your laptop and USB devices as it does so. There may be users who'd have preferred three USB-A ports to two, and the on-body markings were bafflingly hard to make out on our review model, but overall this is a very solid way to incorporate a range of peripherals into your Mac setup with minimal fuss.

THE BOTTOM LINE. A solid, single-cable way to power your laptop while adding a good selection of extra ports. **HOLLIN JONES**

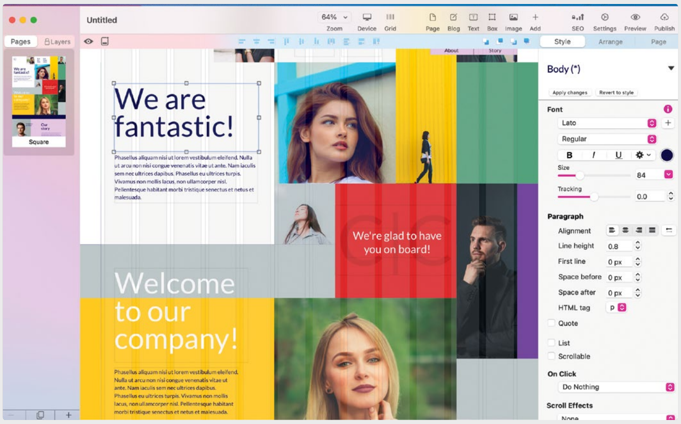
The front edge has ports for devices you need to connect more frequently, such as memory cards and headphones.

CORSAIR TBT100 THUNDERBOLT 3 DOCK

- + Powers laptop and USB devices
- + One-cable-to-Mac operation
- + Solid set of ports for most pros
- − A third USB-A port would be ideal

GREAT 🟥🟥🟥🟥⬜

Image rights: Corsair.



We are fantastic!

Welcome to our company!

We're glad to have you on board!

Untitled
Pages
Layers
Square
Zoom
Device
Grid
Page
Blog
Text
Box
Image
Add
SEO
Settings
Preview
Publish
Style
Arrange
Page
Body (*)
Apply changes
Revert to style
Font
Lato
Regular
Size
84
Tracking
0.0
Paragraph
Alignment
Line height
0.8
First line
0 px
Space before
0 px
Space after
0 px
HTML tag
p
Quote
List
Scrollable
On Click
Do Nothing
Scroll Effects
None

Sparkle 3 for Mac

It's like Pages for websites

From $29.99 **From** River SRL, sparkleapp.com

Needs OS X 10.9 or later, 64-bit processor

Building websites is something many of us don't do any more: we'll use something template-based for business, blog on WordPress or Medium, and hire a designer for anything more complex. Sparkle would like to offer an alternative option: professional website creation that's as simple as creating something in Pages or Keynote.

Version 3 introduces an improved, Big Sur-friendly interface. There's a straightforward blog module, new built-in fonts, EXIF data extraction for images and galleries, buttons for key payment services such as PayPal and Stripe, and good audio and video embedding features.

With Sparkle it's easy to produce impressive results, but it's designed to make serious websites and offers ecommerce functions, visitor analysis, and advertising. Just make sure you get the right version. The core product is Sparkle Pro, which is $119.99 and has all the ecommerce features. The more basic Sparkle One ($49.99) has fewer tools and limits you to publishing a single site, while the cheapest Sparkle Basic ($29.99) limits you to one site and ten pages.

THE BOTTOM LINE. A good, easy-to-use option for people who wouldn't normally make websites. **CARRIE MARSHALL**

SPARKLE 3

- ⊞ Easy to use
- ⊞ Impressive results
- ⊟ Not for coders
- ⊟ Basic is too basic

GREAT ■■■■□

Wifi Explorer

Scan and fix Wi-Fi networks

$19.99 **From** Intuitibits, intuitibits.com

Needs macOS 10.13 or later

WiFi Explorer is a network scanner and analysis tool for Wi-Fi. It lists the Wi-Fi networks in the vicinity, including their SSID, MAC address, device manufacturer, signal strength, and more. It also provides a graphical illustration of the networks, so you can see where, for example, signals overlap or channels conflict. Each network is given a signal quality rating based on signal-to-noise ratio.

It supports 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands, and 20, 40, 60, and 80MHz frequencies. It works with 802.11a/b/g/n/ac/ax networks. You can add your own notes to one column in the table, and give the column a label, as well as adjust timescales and filter results based on criteria such as vendor or signal band. Details can be exported in CSV format for importing into Excel or Numbers.

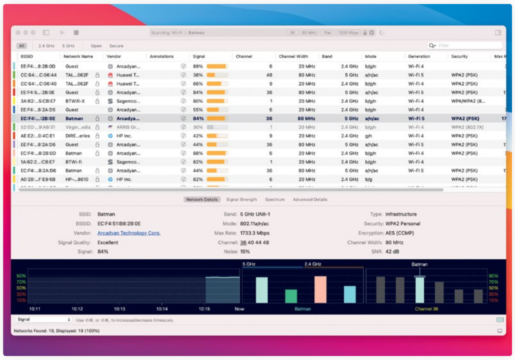
Wifi Explorer provides useful data about your Wi-Fi networks. It lacks NetSpot Home's building survey features, but it's also much cheaper. There's also a $1.99 Lite version with the core features.

THE BOTTOM LINE. An excellent tool for analyzing Wi-Fi networks and troubleshooting problems. **KENNY HEMPHILL**

WIFI EXPLORER

- ⊞ Can filter results
- ⊞ Can annotate results
- ⊞ Easy to use
- ⊟ Doesn't identify where in building signal is weak

GREAT ■■■■□



SSID
Network Name
Vendor
Annotations
Signal
Channel
Channel Width
Band
Mode
Generation
Security
Network Details
Signal Strength
Spectrum
Advanced Details
SSID: Batman
Band: 5 GHz UNII-1
Mode: 802.11a/n/ac
Max Rate: 1733.3 Mbps
Type: Infrastructure
Security: WPA2 Personal
Encryption: AES (CCMP)
Channel Width: 80 MHz
Signal Quality: Excellent
Signal: 84%
Noise: 15%
SNR: 42 dB
5 GHz
2.4 GHz
Batman

Image rights from top-left: River SRL, Intuitibits.

Logitech Circle View

A high-quality security camera with HomeKit support

$159.99 **From** Logitech, logitech.com

Features 1080p HD resolution, wide-angle lens, night-vision mode

There are plenty of affordable security cameras available these days, but not many that support Apple's HomeKit software. Logitech was one of the first companies to support HomeKit with its original Circle and Circle 2 cameras, which have now been replaced by the new Circle View. In fact, the Circle View is "designed exclusively for HomeKit," with no mention of support for Android on Logitech's website.

The Circle View is a little more expensive than some of its rivals, but it's well-designed and packed with useful features, including a high-quality glass lens with HD (1920x1080) resolution that provides very clear, sharp image quality. The wide-angle lens also provides close to a 180° field of view, although there is a little "fish-eye" distortion on the outer edges of the image. But many people will consider that an acceptable compromise in order to get such a wide viewing angle for monitoring your home.

The camera is mounted on a sturdy metal stand, with a 10ft power cable, and Logitech includes a wall-mount kit in the box too. The camera is also rated IP64 for weather resistance, so you could run the power cable out of a window and attach the camera to an outside wall to monitor your garden or garage. There's also a night vision mode, although our tests suggest that it provides a clear view for distances of around 10ft, rather than the 15ft quoted by Logitech.

Using HomeKit means that you do need to have an AppleTV, HomePod or iPad that can act as your "home hub" for controlling the camera, but as long as you have a suitable hub then setting everything up is very easy. You just scan the QR code on the base of the camera and the iOS Home app will automatically detect the camera and connect it to your Wi-Fi network. However, it's disappointing that a relatively expensive camera such as this one only supports 2.4GHz Wi-Fi.

You can use the Home app to view the camera's live video on any of your Macs or iOS devices wherever you are, and set it to send you a notification whenever it detects motion. The Home app provides additional features too, including the ability to recognize faces that are tagged in your Photos library. You can even tell the camera to focus on specific areas, called "activity zones" – although it can take a while to find any explanation of these features on Apple's website.

Recording and storing video clips online does require you to purchase one of Apple's iCloud storage plans, which start at $2.99 per month for 200GB of online storage. Your video recordings don't count towards your storage limit, though, so you don't have to worry about clogging up your iCloud with video clips of your cat.

THE BOTTOM LINE. It's not the cheapest security camera around, but the Circle View is a well-designed camera with very good image quality and intelligent security features. **CLIFF JOSEPH**

A privacy button allows you to quickly turn off the camera when you want to.

LOGITECH CIRCLE VIEW

- + High-quality HD, wide-angle lens
- + Supports HomeKit
- − Expensive
- − Requires Apple TV, iPad, or HomePod

GREAT ■■■■□

Image rights: Logitech.

The Circle View has a sturdy metal stand and is rated IP64 for weather-resistance.

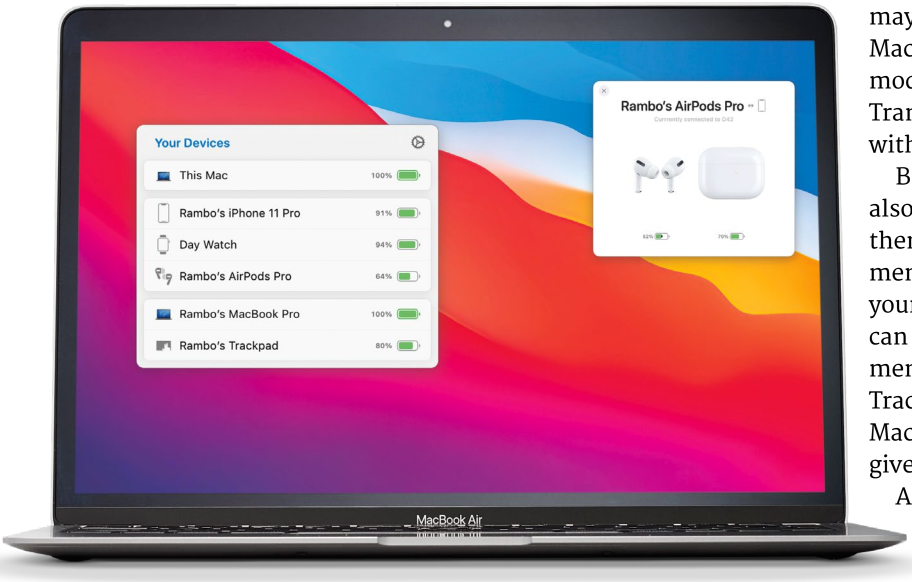
Image rights: Logitech.

AirBuddy 2

Better integration of AirPods and Beats with macOS

$9.99; upgrade from 2019 purchase $4.99; upgrade from 2020 purchase is free

From Guilherme Rambo, v2.airbuddy.app **Needs** macOS 10.14.6 or later



Your Devices	
This Mac	100%
Rambo's iPhone 11 Pro	91%
Day Watch	94%
Rambo's AirPods Pro	64%
Rambo's MacBook Pro	100%
Rambo's Trackpad	80%

Monitor the charge status of all your Apple gear, including iPhones, AirPods, and Magic Keyboards.

Apple's wireless earphones and Beats-branded headphones contain hardware that enables, among other things, their easy discovery and management from your iPhone or iPad. Their integration with macOS, on the other hand, is a little more basic — and that's where AirBuddy 2 comes in. A lightweight app that runs mostly from your Menu Bar, it provides a much more comprehensive way to monitor your Apple peripherals from your desktop than Apple currently allows.

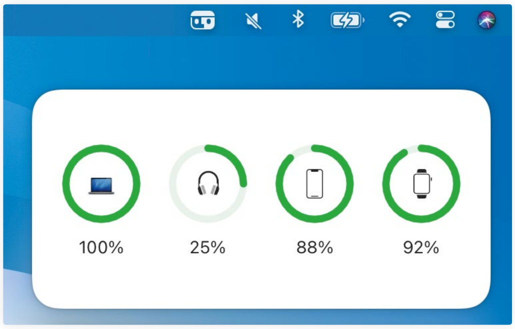
The headline feature is the ability to show the status of your AirPods, AirPods Pro or Beats headphones when they're near your Mac. Once paired using the quick setup procedure, the charging status of the case and earphones both appear in the status window, which can be set to be large or small, when you open the case near your Mac. This proximity setting can be disabled.

You can also change the "listening mode" for AirPods using the status bar menu, a custom key command that you can set up, or a swipe on the trackpad for AirPods Pro. So it may be that when you connect them to your Mac you want them to default to "meeting" mode, with the microphone on and Transparency mode on; or "music" mode, with the mic off and noise cancelling enabled.

But there's more. iPhones and iPads can also be registered by physically connecting them once, and they will appear in the status menu, as will any Apple Watch connected to your iPhone. Other Macs running AirBuddy 2 can also show their battery status in your menu, and Magic Mice, Keyboards and Trackpads can be transferred to said other Macs with one click. Lastly, Smart Stats can give you a breakdown of your AirPod usage.

AirBuddy 2 is a clever, slick and affordable way to better integrate your Apple peripherals with your Mac. It's a shame this is only possible with Apple gear and not other wireless headphones, but most don't have the hardware required to enable this level of communication. AirPods Pro users will find their recent hardware offers the highest level of integration, but there's plenty for users of other Apple gear too. Don't be surprised if Apple buys or perhaps copies it for a future version of macOS.

THE BOTTOM LINE. Better integration of your Apple earphones with your Mac, plus some bonus features. **HOLLIN JONES**



On Big Sur, use the Widget to show an iOS-style readout of the batteries of all connected devices at a glance.

AIRBUDDY 2

- ⊕ iOS-like integration of AirPods and Macs
- ⊕ Share other input devices across Macs
- ⊕ Customizable listening modes
- ⊖ Ony works with Apple gear

EXCELLENT ■■■■▨

Image rights: Guilherme Rambo.

The versatile SoundForm Elite combines a speaker, AirPlay 2, Bluetooth, and wireless charging.

Belkin SoundForm Elite

A compact speaker with wireless charging

$299.99 **From** Belkin, belkin.com

Features AirPlay 2, Bluetooth, 10W wireless charging pad

A speaker with a built-in wireless charging pad might sound a bit gimmicky, but Belkin's SoundForm Elite was developed in conjunction with the hi-fi experts at Devialet, which means that Belkin is taking sound quality very seriously.

Available in black or white, its cylindrical design and fabric covering is reminiscent of Apple's HomePod, although its top panel has been sliced away at an angle to make room for the 10W charging pad for your smartphone.

The SoundForm is just 6.63-inches high and 6.4-inches in diameter, so it'll sit easily on a shelf or table. It supports AirPlay 2 for streaming from Apple devices but, unlike the HomePod, it also supports Bluetooth for other types of devices, and there's a SoundForm app for iOS and Android that helps you to connect it to your network (and lets you use Alexa, as well, if you're so inclined).

The speaker's two woofers and one tweeter produce good sound quality, with surprisingly firm bass for such a compact little unit. The mid-range and higher frequencies are well-defined but don't have quite the same presence as that beefy bass, and the HomePod's array of seven separate tweeters gives it an edge there. But while the SoundForm Elite might not be the best choice for your main home speaker, its Bluetooth connectivity and wireless charging pad make it a useful option when listening to music in your kitchen or bedroom, or at your desk.

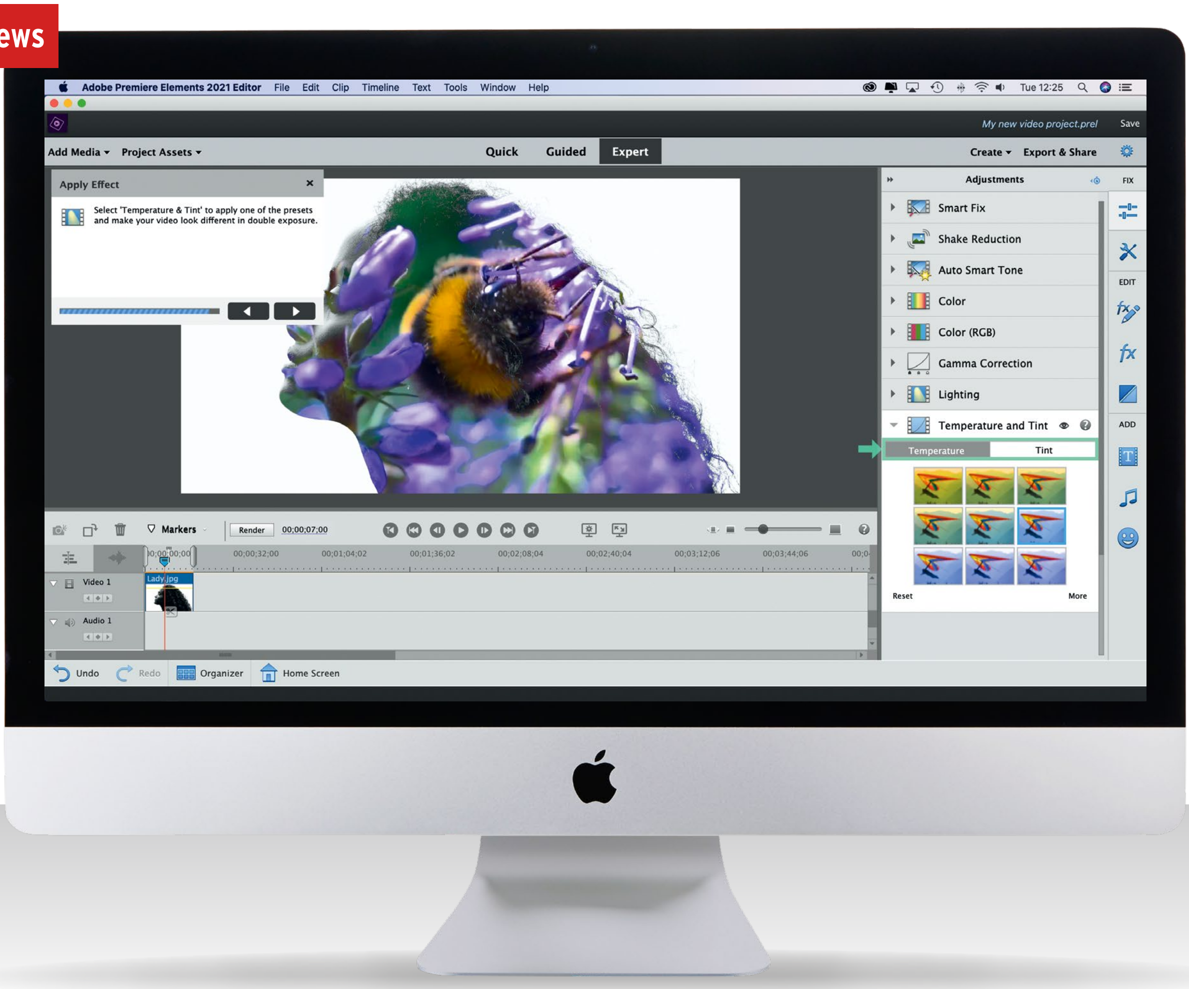
THE BOTTOM LINE. The sound is a little bass-heavy, but the SoundForm Elite's charging and connectivity features are really useful. **CLIFF JOSEPH**

BELKIN SOUNDFORM ELITE

- ⊞ Supports AirPlay 2 and Bluetooth
- ⊞ Built-in wireless charger for smartphone
- ⊞ Microphone for Amazon Alexa
- ⊟ Bass-heavy sound

GREAT 🟥🟥🟥🟥⬜

Image rights: Belkin.


Adobe Premiere Elements 2021 Editor
File
Edit
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Timeline
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Tools
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Export & Share
Apply Effect
Adjustments
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Smart Fix
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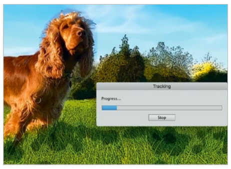
Video 1
Audio 1
Lady.jpg
Undo
Redo
Organizer
Home Screen

Select 'Temperature & Tint' to apply one of the presets and make your video look different in double exposure.

Composite clips and stills in creative ways using the new Double Exposure Guided Edit.



Isolate a selected subject from a filtered background using auto tracking.

ADOBE PREMIERE ELEMENTS 2021

- + Useful guided edits
- + Multiple effect layers
- + Make selective adjustments
- − Ineffective auto tracking

SOLID 🟥🟥🟥⬜⬜

Adobe Premiere Elements 2021

Create slickly edited videos for friends, family, and social media followers

$99.99 **From** Adobe, adobe.com

Needs macOS 10.14 or later

Like iMovie, Adobe Premiere Elements 2021 is a non-linear video editing app that's designed to help video makers trim, fix and share their video footage as polished programs, complete with titles and transitions. However, compared to iMovie, Premiere Elements 2021 boasts a more sophisticated set of post-production tools, such as the ability to make selective adjustments to the colors and tones of a sky without changing the foreground exposure. iMovie only lets you apply one effect filter at a time; Premiere Elements 2021 enables you to apply multiple effects as non-destructive adjustment layers, giving you more freedom to experiment with a range of creative looks.

STAY ORGANIZED

These days we may shoot as many clips as we do stills, thanks to the impressive HD video quality produced by our devices. This can lead to asset management challenges. Fortunately, the Elements 2021 Organiser uses Adobe Sensei artificial intelligence technology to analyze the content of your video footage as well as your pictures. It then adds Smart Tags that cover common subjects

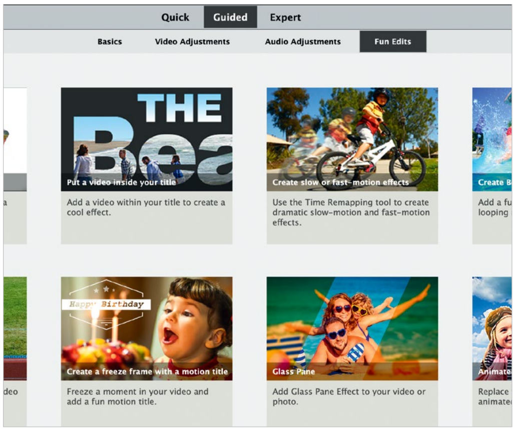
Image rights: Adobe.

such as sunsets, dogs, cats, and so on. Premiere Elements 2021 can also organize clips according to faces so you can search through auto-generated stacks of clips to identify particular people more quickly.

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Premiere Elements 2021 is a suitable app for the video-editing novice to explore thanks to its Guided workspace. Here, 25 themed Guided Edits walk you through the entire production process — from importing, re-ordering and trimming clips in the timeline to adding post-production “bells and whistles” such as graphical elements. In the Guided workspace, step-by-step text instructions are accompanied by pop-up highlights around appropriate buttons and panels, so you can quickly learn how to find and use key editing tools. After exploring the tricks and techniques introduced by the Guided Edits, you’ll become more confident in exploring the Expert workspace.

Premiere Elements 2021 adds two new creative Guided Edits: Double Exposure and Animated Mattes. Double Exposure enables you to creatively combine part of a video layer with a photo using a range of layer blends. This Guided Edit is a springboard to a variety of creative montage effects that will catch people’s attention as they swipe through their social media feeds. The Animated Mattes Guided Edit enables you to introduce a clip’s main subject in a variety of creative ways. Instead of fading up (or mixing) from black you can reveal your subject via animated effects such as geometric patterns.



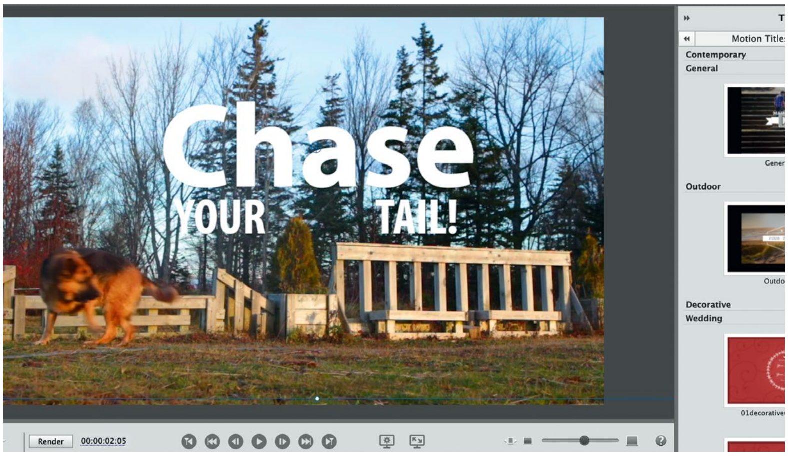
Put a video inside your title
Add a video within your title to create a cool effect.

Create slow or fast-motion effects
Use the Time Remapping tool to create dramatic slow-motion and fast-motion effects.

Create a freeze frame with a motion title
Freeze a moment in your video and add a fun motion title.

Glass Pane
Add Glass Pane Effect to your video or photo.

Premiere Elements’ Guided Edits take you step-by-step through a range of editing techniques.



Enhance your social media clips with a range of animated titles.

This type of Guided Edit adds texture and variety to your programs as well as introducing novices to advanced post-production techniques such as Luma keying.

KEEP ON TRACK

One of Premiere Elements 2021’s new features is the ability to apply effects to specific objects and then have those effects follow (or track) the subject throughout the video. In the official Adobe demo video, we see a child running through a field. The image is blurred with an effect and then the child is selected with a quick scribble. Auto tracking then ensures that the child remains sharp while she runs through the blurred background. In practice, we found that auto effect tracking worked well if your subject remains at a similar size in the frame throughout the clip (as the girl does in the demo). However, when faced with a spaniel running back and forth, Premiere Elements couldn’t keep track of the subject’s changing size in the frame. It also failed to track the vertical changes in position of a child bouncing on a trampoline. This auto tracking feature would have benefitted from a Guided Edit as it takes a while to get used to it.

Premiere Elements 2021 provides all the video organizing, fixing and editing tools that the average social media content-maker will require, plus it gives you room to develop your editing skills thanks to a wide range of post-production tools.

THE BOTTOM LINE. A good, if not fully effective, tool to guide you through both simple and sophisticated video editing techniques. **GEORGE CAIRNS**

Image rights: Adobe.

GROUP TEST

REVIEWED BY HOLLIN JONES

ON TEST...

- RAVPower RP-PC136
- Anker PowerPort Atom III
- Belkin BoostCharge Dual 68W
- RAVPower PD Pioneer 65W
- CHOETECH PD 100W Charger GaN
- Chargeasap 200W Omega

chargeasap
belkin
18W
50-60W MAX
CHOETECH
PD
PD

GAN CHARGERS

We compare the new breed of powerful and portable chargers for all your Apple devices

Image rights clockwise from left: CHOETECH, Belkin, Chargeasap, Anker, RAVPower, RAVPower.

ANKER
RAVPOWER
PD
smart
PD
smart
RAVPOWER
iSmart
PD

MANY PEOPLE NOW own several mobile devices, often some combination of laptop, smartphone, and tablet. So charging is more important than ever, but many of us are stuck with one higher powered charger that came with a MacBook, and other, lower-powered models for our phones.

GaN chargers are smaller and more power-efficient than traditional silicon-based models. Gallium nitride is able to conduct far higher voltages than silicon while generating much less heat. This means that GaN chargers can be smaller, since fewer components like heat sinks are required. They are also relatively inexpensive, especially compared to Apple's own chargers.

As our devices move inexorably towards all-USB-C ports, a GaN charger can be a more portable and efficient way of powering all your gear. Many also feature the Power Delivery (PD) protocol, required for faster charging. It's also worth noting that none of these chargers ship with a USB-C cable, so you need to add your own, preferably a PD-compatible one, for maximum power transfer.

How we tested

Using two devices, a 16-inch MacBook Pro and an iPhone 12, for each charger we measured the time charging from empty to full battery. Where a charger had more than one port we also tested charging both devices at the same time, using a USB-C-to-Lightning cable for the iPhone 12. As the phone would always recharge first, the laptop would speed up after the phone reached 100% when using chargers featuring dynamic power balancing, which reallocated power back to the laptop.

Things to consider...

>>> Number of ports

The more ports, the more devices you can charge at once but also usually less power is available to each port in use. Some chargers switch this automatically as you connect more devices.

>>> Type of ports

Recent Mac laptops use USB-C, as does iPad Pro. iPhones still use Lightning, so a charger with an extra USB-A port means you can use older iPhone cables.

>>> Maximum wattage

A higher max wattage means faster charging overall. With multiple devices connected, a higher total wattage means more power to each port.

>>> Is Power Switching supported?

All devices on test have more than one port but not all can dynamically allocate power based on what's connected.

RAVPOWER
PD
smart
PD
smart

1

> RAVPower RP-PC136

$53.99 **From** RAVPower, ravpower.com

1 With a detachable wall cable this well-built model has more reach than most others so is a little easier to use on a desktop. With 65W of total power it has two USB-C PD and two USB-A ports so up to four devices are supported, with the available power allocated accordingly. Plug in one USB-C cable to get the full 65W and a second to send 45W to the first and 18W to the second. Other combinations of USB-C and USB-A affect power allocation differently.

It was able to charge the MacBook Pro in just over two hours and the iPhone 12 in 1h 38m. With both connected at once the phone charged slightly slower, but in a comparable time, and the laptop in 2h 53m.

This model is compact though the wall cable adds some bulk. If travelling you could always try borrowing a wall cable at your destination, for ultimate portability. Its form factor is unique among the chargers on test, and may be of particular appeal.

- + More physical range
- + Four ports
- + Intelligent power allocation
- − You may want an integrated plug

GREAT 🟥🟥🟥🟥⬜

> Anker PowerPort Atom III

$37.99 **From** Anker, anker.com

2 With a total power output of 60W, the PowerPort Atom III splits this across 45W to its USB-C port and 15W to the USB-A. But it's not able to output the full 60W if you just connect a single device to the USB-C port, so charging larger laptops is a little slower. It's 15% smaller than Apple's 60W MacBook Pro charger and claims to be 2.5 times faster than the stock iPhone charger. It supports fast iPhone charging with a compatible cable like most of the others on test.

It charged the iPhone 12 in 1h 44m and the MacBook Pro in 2h 37m. Since there's no dynamic power reallocation, charging both devices at the same time resulted in identical times to charging separately. It has a max amount of power it can send to each port regardless of whether one or two devices are connected. While not dramatically smaller than an Apple charger, it does have dual ports. A decent all-rounder, though it doesn't stand out in the way it might.

- + Dual ports in one body
- + Good build
- − No dynamic power switching
- − No Power Delivery support

SOLID 🟥🟥🟥⬜⬜

Image rights: RAVPower.

2

belkin
18W
30-60W MAX

3

Mac|Life
EDITORS' CHOICE
RAVPOWER
iSmart
PD

4

› Belkin BoostCharge Dual 68W

$54.99 **From** Belkin, belkin.com

3 Belkin's elegant BoostCharge Dual 63W GaN wall charger has a slick, precision-moulded feel to it, formed from a single piece of plastic. It has two USB-C ports which provide 60W maximum to a single laptop from the appropriately labelled port, or 50W to the laptop and 18W to the second port when two devices are connected. Helpfully, there is onboard sensing of connections so the charger knows what you're charging and dynamically allocates power accordingly. That means you can quick-charge your iPhone, for example, up to 50% in around half an hour, then unplug it and the charger will switch the other port back to sending 60W to your laptop.

It charged our iPhone 12 fully in 1h 43 and the MacBook Pro in 2h 27m. Connecting both devices added around 25 minutes to the MacBook's charge time, which picked up speed after the phone had charged fully. There's also built-in overcurrent and overvoltage protection.

- + Simple, solid build
- + Dynamic power switching
- + Supports Power Delivery
- − No USB-A port

GREAT ■■■■□

› RAVPower PD Pioneer 65W

$38.99 **From** RAVPower, ravpower.com

4 RAVPower's second entry in this group is a wall-mounting charger that's surprisingly compact, at a claimed 30% smaller than other 60W chargers but feeling even smaller. It has a USB-C port with Power Delivery and a USB-A which they call "iSmart." There's intelligent power distribution so the full 65W can be delivered over USB-C when a single device is connected, and when a second device is plugged into the USB-A port this is split, with 45W going to the USB-C port and up to 18W to the USB-A port. Performance was in line with the PC136 with two devices connected to it and thus the power allocation behaved the same way it does in this model. It charged the MacBook Pro in 2h 13m and the iPhone 12 in 1h 38m when charged separately, and slightly longer when both devices were charged at once. Achieving 65W in such a tiny package as this is testament to how GaN chargers will change the world of charging.

- + Super-compact
- + Full 65W over USB-C
- + Intelligent power switching
- + Affordable

AWESOME ■■■■■

Image rights clockwise from top: Anker, RAVPower, Belkin.

CHOETECH
PD
PD

5

Mac|Life
EDITORS' CHOICE
chargeasap

6

› CHOETECH PD 100W Charger GaN

$59.99 **From** Choetech, choetech.com

5 Stepping things up a little, Choetech's PD 100W is still astonishingly small and affordable for such a powerful charger, at 30% smaller than Apple's comparable 96W charger. It has dual USB-C ports with Power Delivery and can provide the full 100W across a single port, making it extremely effective for charging even Apple's 16-inch MacBook Pro – just under two hours in our test.

Both ports can carry the full 100W so you don't have to choose one, but if you do connect two devices the total power available to each port falls to 45W. There does not appear to be intelligent switching, but reconnecting a single port seems to re-allocate the full 100W to it. That extra juice is less important when it comes to iPhones since there is a limit to how much power they can accept – somewhere between 18W and 20W seems to be optimum for Fast Charging. That said, this will juice up your iPhone as fast as it can be charged.

- + Compact
- + Extremely powerful
- + Very affordable
- − No USB-A port

GREAT ■■■■□

› Chargeasap 200W Omega

$149 **From** Chargeasap, chargeasap.com

6 Chargeasap's 200W Omega is a big leap in overall power and comes with a big price tag to match. A significantly different build, feeling more like a large battery, it plugs directly into the wall. Though it's larger than the others on test, packing 200W into a charger that's about one-third of the size of similarly powered units is impressive.

It uses "laptop-first" power management to ensure that a USB-C port will always be prioritized, even as you plug other devices in and out. Both USB-C ports can carry 100W each, and the two USB-A ports from 12W to 22.5W depending on what combo of ports are in use.

We were able to charge our MacBook Pro in just under two hours, as well as our iPhone 12 at top speed in 1h 40m – and with juice to spare, since connecting more devices doesn't cause levels to drop by much. In fact, with four devices connected you still get 100W, 65W, 12W, and 12W. It's a pricier option, but a powerful one.

- + Supremely powerful
- + Dual 100W output
- + Lots of headroom
- − Pricey

AWESOME ■■■■■

Image rights from left: CHOETECH, Chargeasap.

RAVPOWER
iSmart
PD

THE WINNER

RAVPower PD Pioneer 65W

The ultimate balance of power and portability

RAVPOWER'S PC-136 IS very versatile, with four ports and 65W in a tiny brick. However, the mains cable it uses to connect to the wall means it's less portable than the others on test. Belkin's BoostCharge Dual 68W is beautifully made though it's a little pricier than comparable models. Choetech's PD 100W is remarkably powerful and very affordable, offering terrific bang for your buck, though it's a shame connecting two devices halves the power rather than splitting it, say, 70/30. Chargeasap's charger is supremely powerful with loads of headroom but it's also costly.

If we're judging all these things, RAVPower's PD Pioneer 65W seems to hit the sweet spot. It's sensibly priced and offers intelligent power distribution, has USB-C and USB-A ports, as well as a solid overall power rating which will charge all but the largest laptops fairly quickly. Most of all, it's incredibly portable – it's so small that it barely adds to your travel gear at all, and it's also well-built. It's a truly great all-round charging option.

Image rights: RavPower.

APP LIFE

THIS MONTH'S MOST INTERESTING iPHONE & iPAD APPS

Evernote 10

A do-everything note-taker

Free (Premium plan $4.99/month) **From** Evernote, evernote.com

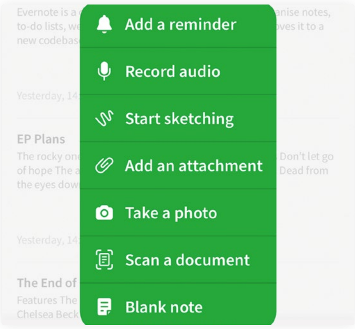
Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch **Needs** iOS 13.2 or later

Evernote is a do-everything app that you can use to organize notes, to-do lists, web links, and documents. Version 10 moves it to a new codebase that promises improved stability, but it seems there are still some bugs to iron out — while Evernote was really fast on iPad we encountered some performance problems and crashes on iPhone (iOS 14.2.1).

In addition to the new engine, Evernote 10 has changed in three key areas: its user interface, which is more consistent across different platforms; its editor; and its search features.

The new multi-function New Note button gives quick access to note creation, images, recording audio, and sketching — and the formatting toolbar has been streamlined. You can use a range of text formatting, headings and tables to make your notes look better and read more easily. And there are now six font choices and 14 text color options, and tags can be nested.

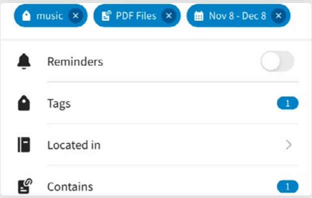
The document scanning feature has been significantly improved. It can now recognize document types automatically, differentiating between Post-it notes, whiteboards and business cards and identifying the best scanning options.


Add a reminder
Record audio
Start sketching
Add an attachment
Take a photo
Scan a document
Blank note

The New Note button gives faster access to commonly used features.

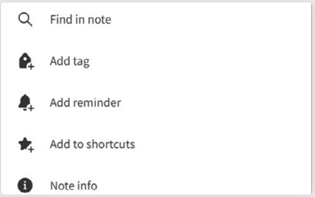
APP TIPS

Try these noteworthy features


music
PDF Files
Nov 8 - Dec 8
Reminders
Tags
1
Located in
Contains
1

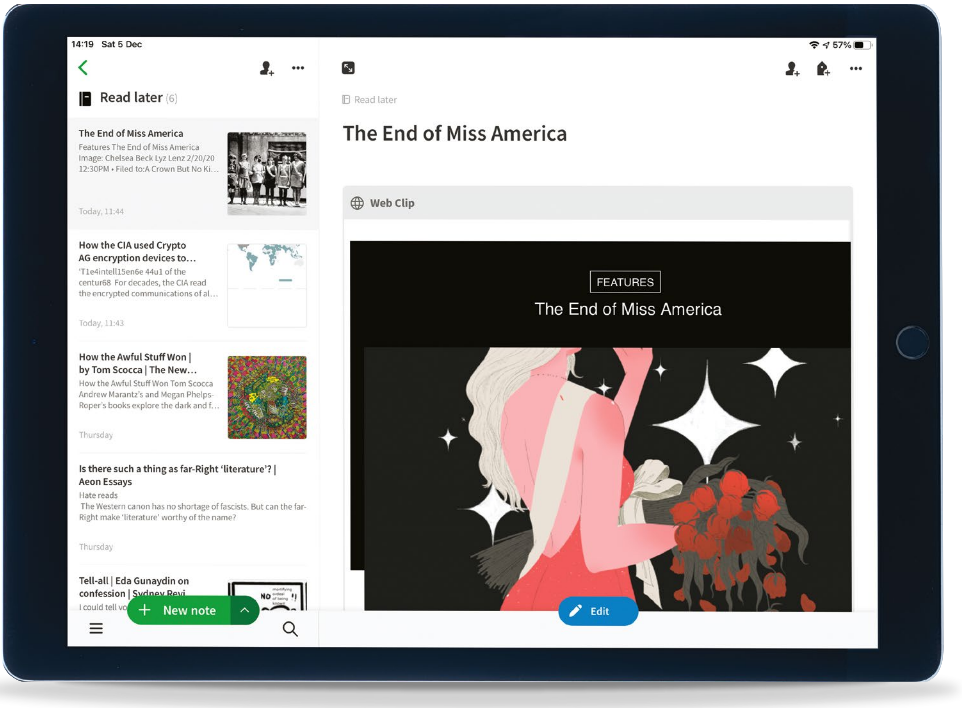
When you search notes you can apply multiple filters for dates, doc types, location, and tags – and save these criteria.

The doc scanner recognizes on-screen presentations and, with a Premium account, OCR the text.


Find in note
Add tag
Add reminder
Add to shortcuts
Note info

Pin notes as shortcuts for quick access to frequently used docs (go to properties – the icon with three dots.)

Image rights: Evernote Corporation.



The End of Miss America
Features The End of Miss America Image: Chelsea Beck Lyz Lenz 2/20/20 12:30PM • Filed to:A Crown But No Ki…
Today, 11:44

How the CIA used Crypto AG encryption devices to…
'T1e4intell15en6e 44u1 of the centur68 For decades, the CIA read the encrypted communications of al…
Today, 11:43

How the Awful Stuff Won | by Tom Scocca | The New…
How the Awful Stuff Won Tom Scocca Andrew Marantz's and Megan Phelps-Roper's books explore the dark and f…
Thursday

Is there such a thing as far-Right 'literature'? | Aeon Essays
Hate reads
The Western canon has no shortage of fascists. But can the far-Right make 'literature' worthy of the name?
Thursday

Tell-all | Eda Gunaydin on confession | Sydney Revi
I could tell vo

The Evernote app syncs to all your devices, great for organizing ideas on the go.

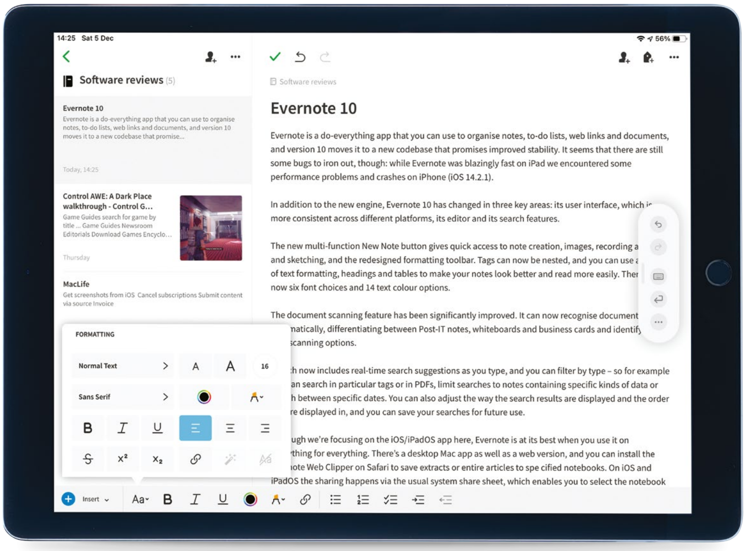
Search now includes real-time search suggestions as you type, and you can filter by type. For example, you can search in particular tags or in PDFs, limit searches to notes containing specific kinds of data, or search between specific dates. You can also adjust the way the search results are displayed and their order, and you can save your searches for future use.

Although we're focusing on the iOS/iPadOS app here, Evernote is at its best when you use it on everything for everything. There's a desktop Mac app as well as a web version, and you can install the Evernote Web Clipper on Safari to save extracts or entire articles to specified notebooks. On iOS and iPadOS the sharing happens via the usual system share sheet, which enables you to select the notebook and add a tag if you wish. The Web Clipper and iOS sharing are very useful research tools and double as a read-later service.

Evernote is available as a free app but this free version is very limited: it lacks OCR, you can only sync with two devices, there's no offline mode, and the max note size is 25MB with a 60MB monthly upload limit. With a Premium plan ($4.99 per month) you get unlimited device sync, PDF annotation, Office and PDF document search, custom templates, and a 10GB monthly upload limit with notes up to 200MB.

Evernote Premium is impressive and useful but the free app has limited features, and some power users claim that with version 10 it's become too simple. But there's a two-week trial that enables you to try Evernote on all your devices to see if it's right for you.

THE BOTTOM LINE. Evernote Premium is extremely capable and flexible, but the free version has limited storage and features. **CARRIE MARSHALL**



Evernote 10
Evernote is a do-everything app that you can use to organise notes, to-do lists, web links and documents, and version 10 moves it to a new codebase that promise...
Today, 14:25

Control AWE: A Dark Place walkthrough - Control G…
Game Guides search for game by title ... Game Guides Newsroom Editorials Download Games Encyclo…
Thursday

MacLife
Get screenshots from iOS Cancel subscriptions Submit content via source Invoice

Evernote 10

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iPadOS the sharing happens via the usual system share sheet, which enables you to select the notebook

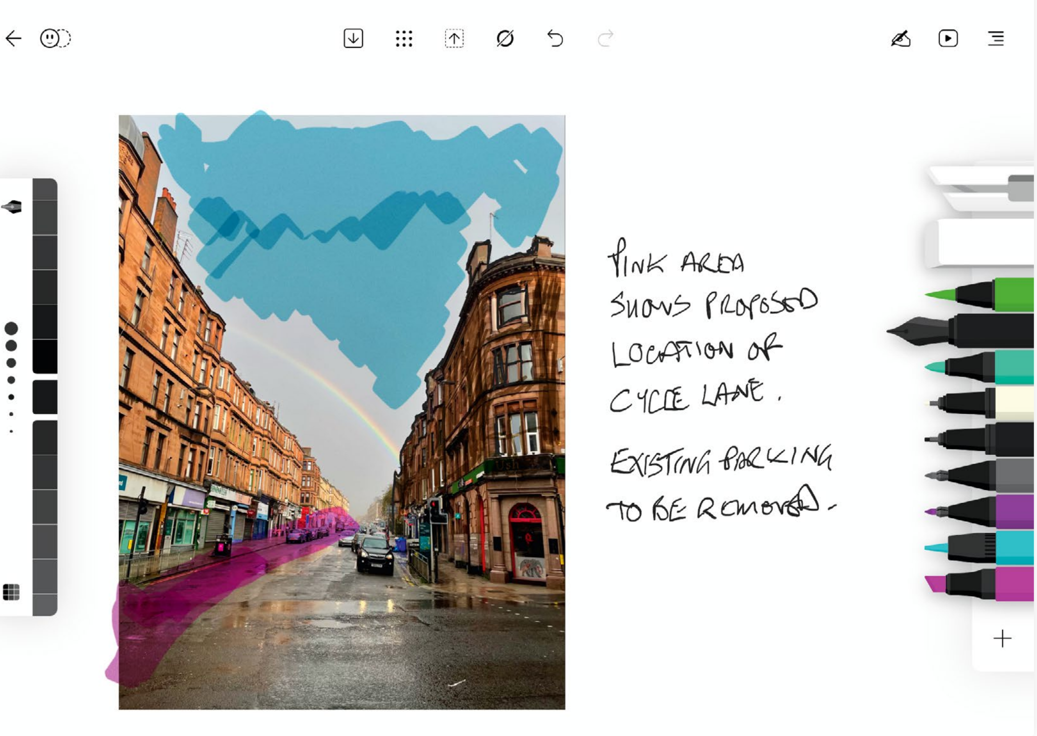
The interface has been redesigned and streamlined for faster formatting of items.

EVERNOTE 10

- ⊕ Much faster note creation
- ⊕ Improved interface
- ⊕ Works on everything
- ⊖ Upload and file-size limits

GREAT 🟩🟩🟩🟩⬜

Image rights: Evernote Corporation.



PINK AREA SHOWS PROPOSED LOCATION OF CYCLE LANE.

EXISTING PARKING TO BE REMOVED.

The latest version of Flow now enables you to combine its drawing tools with photos and other images.

Flow 2 by Moleskine Studio

An endless canvas for artists

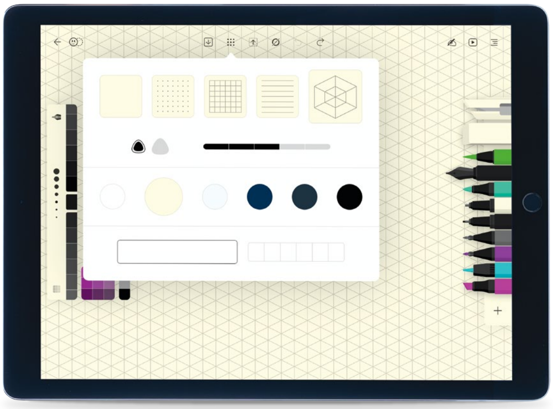
Free (IAPs) **From** Moleskine, moleskinestudio.com

Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch **Needs** iOS 13.0 or later

Artists have scribbled, scrawled and sketched in Moleskine's notebooks for decades, and Flow is an attempt to recreate the tactile joy of those products digitally. It's an artist's sketchpad with customizable brush presets and gestures, and an endless canvas for images of any width. The phone version is good, but the app really shines when you've got it on an iPad screen with an Apple Pencil in your hand.

This is the second major version of Flow and it has some key improvements, not least of which is a vastly lower price tag: if you buy the Moleskine Studio Bundle for $19.99 you get Flow plus the Timepage calendar app and Actions to-do app. The app is $11.99 per year on its own.

Flow's familiar endless canvas can now flow vertically instead of horizontally if you prefer, and the new and very fun Pencil Case mode takes the tools away from your iPad screen and displays them on your iPhone instead. It's the kind of thing that makes you laugh out loud the first time you try it and then wonder how you ever managed without it.



Flow's canvas options include useful dot and perspective grids.

Flow now offers useful image importing tools. You can add images to your document from Photos or Files, including supported cloud storage services, and you can take photos from inside the app and draw on them. You can paste from other apps or from the Universal Clipboard, and you can drag and drop between apps in tiled iPad windows.

For teams the killer feature here may well be the new real-time collaboration. Two or more Flow users can work on the same document at the same time, and if you'd like to chat while you create there's picture-in-picture FaceTime and Zoom for bigger groups.

The collaboration tools answer an important question that's hung over this app for some time: why use Flow when the extraordinarily powerful ProCreate is cheaper and the terrific AutoDesk Sketchbook is free? The collaboration features are a powerful incentive to go with the Flow.

THE BOTTOM LINE. Collaboration tools make Flow more than just a sketchbook.

CARRIE MARSHALL

FLOW 2

- + Clever Pencil Case
- + Excellent customization
- + Online collaboration
- − Some rivals are free

GREAT 🟩🟩🟩🟩⬜

Image rights: Moleskine Digital Studio.

HEY Email

Screen email and be more productive

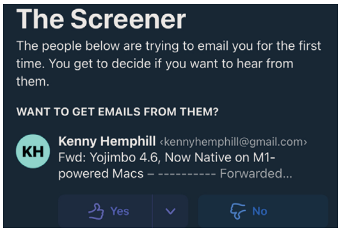
Free (IAPs) **From** Basecamp, hey.com

Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch **Needs** iOS 13.0 or later

Hey is an email service with a 14-day free trial period before you decide whether you want to pay $99 per year.

So is there enough in Hey to make it worth $99? There just might be. Where most email clients released recently focus on the social aspects of email, Hey is all about productivity and privacy. To that end, it has several noteworthy features.

The Screener allows you to control who can send you messages. When an email arrives from someone who hasn't messaged you before, Hey asks you to confirm you want to receive email from them before it allows the message into your inbox. Hey also blocks pixel trackers, used to see if you've opened a commercial message.



The Screener

The people below are trying to email you for the first time. You get to decide if you want to hear from them.

WANT TO GET EMAILS FROM THEM?

KH Kenny Hemphill ‹kennyhemphill@gmail.com›
Fwd: Yojimbo 4.6, Now Native on M1-powered Macs – ---------- Forwarded...

The Screener lets you control whether to allow an email from a new sender.

Other workflow features include the ability to set aside messages to read later or reply to later. Separate stacks are created for each.

The inbox is split vertically, with all unread emails at the top. And you can group messages together — such as all unread or all those in a stack — and read them like a social media feed.

Hey also has an attachment library where you can see all attachments together, contact pages that pull everything from a contact together, and The Paper Trail that acts as a repository for receipts.

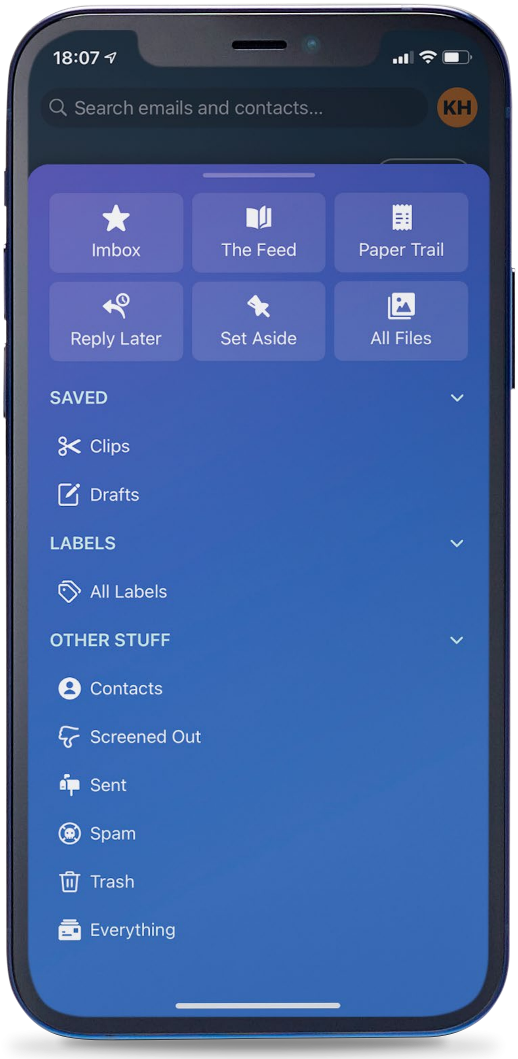
You can change the subject of a thread (and only you will see the change) so that it's meaningful to you, and add private notes to messages.

In terms of iOS features, Hey supports iOS 14 widgets, share sheets, and Dark mode.

Note that because Hey is an email service, not just a client, you can't use it with anything other than a hey.com email address, though you can forward mail to it and there is a helpful guide that shows you how.

Hey has been created by people who understand email, and it shows. If you're a heavy email user and don't need the bells and whistles, such as shared mailboxes in Outlook, it could be the email service for you.

THE BOTTOM LINE. Relatively expensive, but its features are worth it. Hey is an email service unlike any other. **KENNY HEMPHILL**



Paper Trail allows you to keep track of receipts and invoices, while files lets you see all attachments in one place.

HEY EMAIL

- ⊞ Email screening
- ⊞ Pixel blocking
- ⊞ Great organization features
- ⊟ Relatively expensive

EXCELLENT 🟩🟩🟩🟩▮

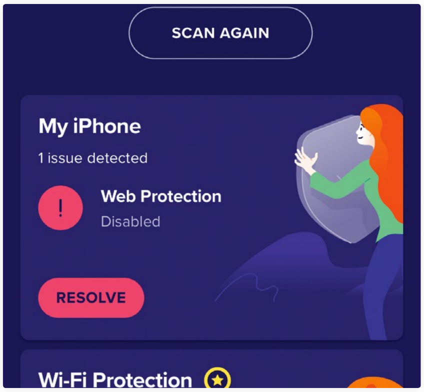
Image rights: Basecamp.

ROUNDUP

6 apps for online privacy

Apps to ensure your private life stays that way

Smartphones and tablets have become such a vital part of our lives that most of us would now feel lost without them. But there are also risks in relying on our mobile devices so much. The advertising "trackers" that follow us around the web are just the start. Even more dangerous are the online scams that try to con money out of us, and malware-ridden websites that try to get hold of personal or financial data. And, of course, there's insecure public Wi-Fi networks and hackers who attempt to break into your home or office network. So check out some of these top apps that can protect your privacy and security online.

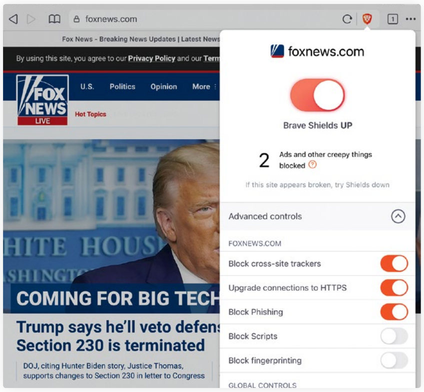


AVAST SECURITY & PRIVACY

Free (Full version $4.99/month)

Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

Avast is a regular best-seller on the App Store. There's a free version with basic security features, protecting you from malware on websites and hacking attacks on public networks. The full version is available with either a monthly ($4.99) or yearly ($19.99) subscription and adds VPN, encryption for personal photos, and the ability to monitor password breaches for your online accounts.



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COMING FOR BIG TECH

Trump says he'll veto defens

Section 230 is terminated

DOJ, citing Hunter Biden story, Justice Thomas, supports changes to Section 230 in letter to Congress

foxnews.com

Brave Shields UP

2 Ads and other creepy things blocked

If this site appears broken, try Shields down

Advanced controls

FOXNEWS.COM

Block cross-site trackers ●

Upgrade connections to HTTPS ●

Block Phishing ●

Block Scripts ○

Block fingerprinting ○

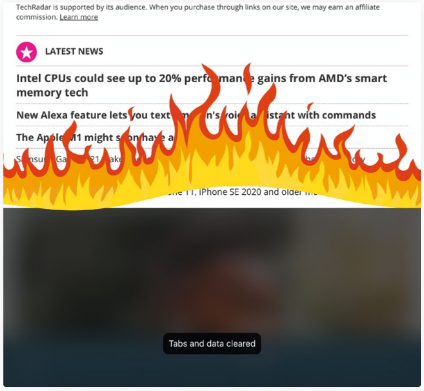
GLOBAL CONTROLS

BRAVE PRIVATE WEB BROWSER & VPN

Free (Firewall & VPN $9.99/month)

Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

The popular Brave browser was offering tracking protection years before Safari. The browser itself is free to download, and includes a "Shields' feature – similar to Safari's new Privacy Report – as well as a private-browsing mode. And you can buy Firewall and VPN features as an IAP, although these are a little pricey at $9.99 per month or $99.99 yearly.



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LATEST NEWS

Intel CPUs could see up to 20% performance gains from AMD's smart memory tech

Tabs and data cleared

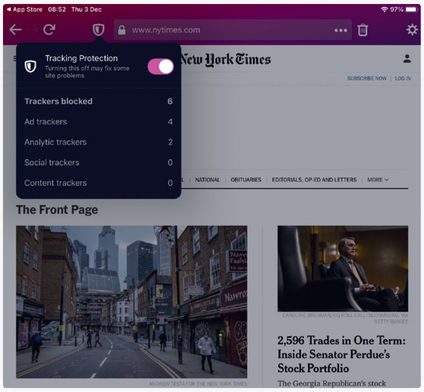
DUCKDUCKGO PRIVACY BROWSER

Free **Made for** iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

Google watches all your online searches and sells your data to advertisers, who then track you all over the internet. DuckDuckGo searches for whatever term you type in, shows the results, and then forgets everything. You can visit duckduckgo.com from any browser on any device, and there's an extension for Safari on the Mac. This free iOS app works as a standalone browser on its own.

Image rights from left: Avast Software, Brave Software, DuckDuckGo.

Coffee
Cakes
FREE
GET YOUR CELLPHONE COMPROMISED HERE
WiFi


App Store 08:52 Thu 3 Dec
97%
www.nytimes.com

Tracking Protection
Turning this off may fix some site problems

Trackers blocked	6
Ad trackers	4
Analytic trackers	2
Social trackers	0
Content trackers	0

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The Front Page

ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAROLINE BREHMAN/CQ ROLL CALL/BLOOMBERG, VIA GETTY IMAGES

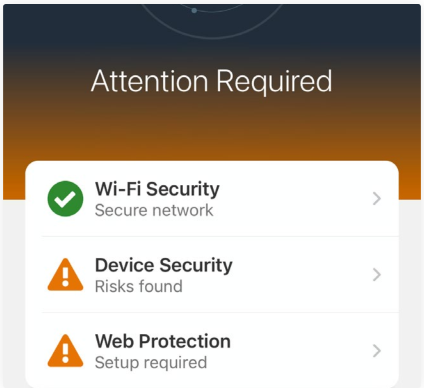
2,596 Trades in One Term: Inside Senator Perdue's Stock Portfolio

The Georgia Republican's stock

FIREFOX FOCUS

Free Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

There's already an iOS version of the popular Firefox browser, but iOS users can also opt for FireFox Focus, which is a speedy, stripped-down browser with simple privacy controls designed for quick searches and simple online tasks. Firefox Focus can block ads and trackers, and you can delete your entire browsing history, passwords, cookies and other personal info with a quick tap of a button.


Attention Required

Wi-Fi Security
Secure network

Device Security
Risks found

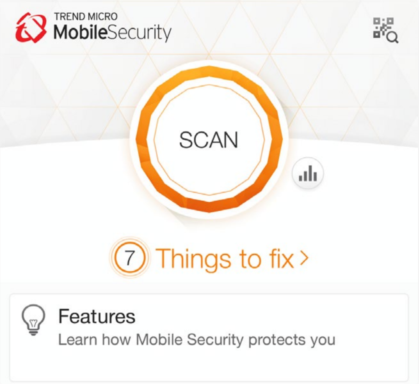
Web Protection
Setup required

NORTON MOBILE SECURITY

$14.99/per year

Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

Norton's security software is widely used on Macs and PCs, and Norton recently released this standalone app for mobile devices too. The app provides two main features: Wi-Fi Security to protect your network from hacking attacks, and Web Protection to block malware and scam websites. The first year is $14.99 but then rises to $29.99, although there's a 14-day trial available too.


TREND MICRO MobileSecurity

SCAN

7 Things to fix >

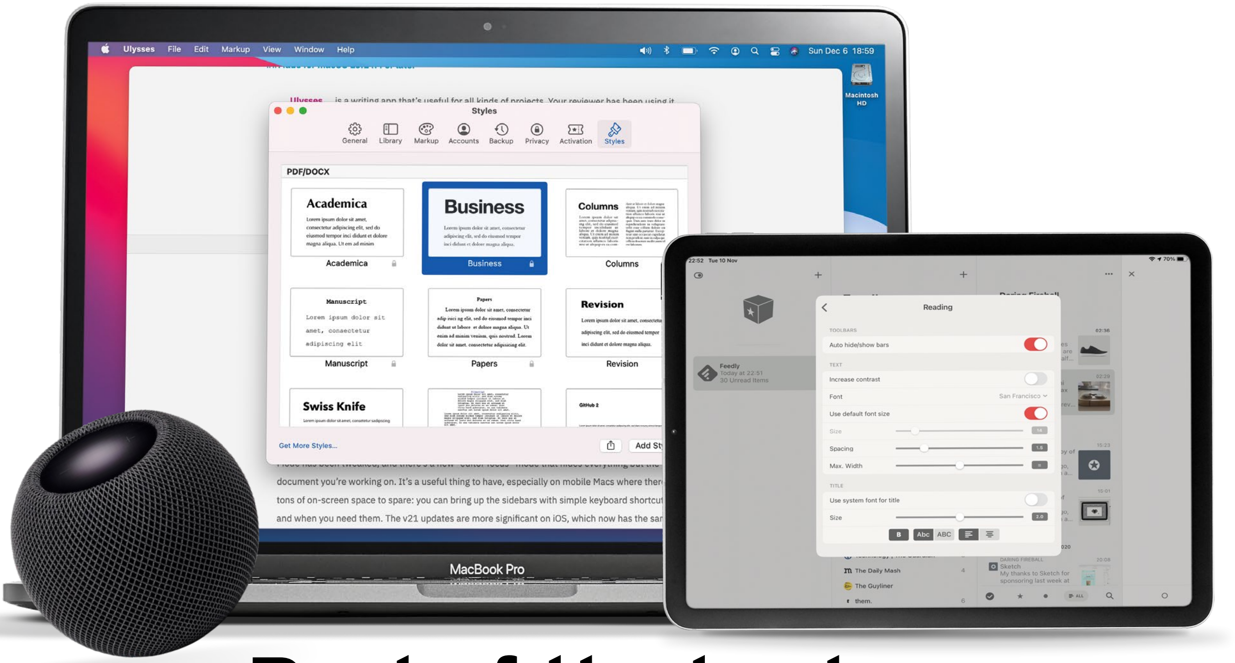
Features
Learn how Mobile Security protects you

TREND MICRO MOBILE SECURITY

$4.99/month or $19.99/year Made for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

Trend's security software is used by a number of router manufacturers, so this Mobile Security app comes to iOS with a strong pedigree. It includes a security scan for your Wi-Fi network, WebGuard to block malware and scam websites, and it can even check the security of your social media accounts. After a 14-day trial it costs $4.99 per month or $19.99 a year.

Image rights from left: Mozilla, NortonLifeLock, Trend Micro.



Best of the best

Can't find the hardware or app you're looking for in our reviews section? Then check in here – we've highlighted the best in every major category, as voted for by us

> HARDWARE

CATEGORY	PRODUCT	WEB	PRICE	FEATURES
MESH ROUTER	Zyxel Multy U	zyxel.com	$269.99	AC2100, 3 nodes, tri-band, MU-MIMO
PORTABLE BATTERY	Zendure SuperTank Pro	supertankpro.zendure.com	$249.99	26,800mAh, 4x USB-C ports, OLED display
THUNDERBOLT 3 DOCK	Brydge Stone Pro	brydge.com	$239.99	11 ports, 87W power supply, dual display
MIRRORLESS CAMERA	Fujifilm X-A7	fujifilm.com	$699	24.24MP APS-C sensor, 4K/30fps video
PRINTER	Epson Expression Photo HD	epson.com	$349.99	Wide-format, wireless printing, 200 capacity
EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE	Adata SE800	adata.com	$159.99	512GB/1TB, IP68, up to 1GB/S read/write, 40g
NAS DEVICE	WD My Cloud Pro PR2100	wdc.com	$399.99	Up to 20TB, 4GB RAM, 2x Gigabit Ethernet
Qi CHARGER	Moshi Porto Q 5K	moshi.com	$84.95	5000mAh battery built-in, 5W charging
ON/OVER HEADPHONES	Bose NC700	bose.com	$399.95	10 noise-cancelling steps, 20 hours battery
IN-EAR HEADPHONES	Cambridge Audio Melomania 1	cambridgeaudio.com	$99.95	Noise-cancelling, wireless charging case
SECURITY CAMERA	EufyCam 2C (two-pack kit)	eufylife.com	$239.99	Battery-powered, floodlight, local storage
SMART SPEAKER	HomePod mini	apple.com	$99	360-degree sound, stereo pair, AirPlay 2
21.5-INCH MONITOR	Dell P2219HC	dell.com	$149.99	1920x1080, IPS, HDMI, 2x DisplayPort, USB-C

Image rights from left to right: Ulysses GmbH & Co. KG, Silvio Rizzi.

> iOS APPS

CATEGORY	PRODUCT	WEB	PRICE	NEEDS
TO DO (PRODUCTIVITY)	Things 3	culturedcode.com	$9.99	iOS 10 or later
WRITING	Scrivener	literatureandlatte.com	$19.99	iOS 9 or later
EMAIL	Spark	sparkmailapp.com	Free	iOS 10 or later
PHOTO EDITOR	Pixelmator for iPad	pixelmator.com	$4.99	iOS 11 or later
VIDEO EDITOR	LumaFusion 2.0	luma-touch.com	$14.99	iOS 11 or later
CAMERA	FiLMiC Firstlight	filmicpro.com	$7.99	iOS 13 or later
RSS READER	Reeder 5	reeder.app	$4.99	iOS 14 or later
IDEAS ORGANIZER	OmniOutliner3	omnigroup.com	Free (IAPs)	iOS 11.2 or later
NOTE-TAKING	Notability 10	gingerlabs.com	$8.99	iOS 12 or later
MIND-MAPPING	MindNode 6	mindnode.com	$14.99	iOS 11 or later
DOCUMENT SCANNER	Prizmo 5	creaceed.com	Free (IAPs)	iOS 12.2 or later
CALENDAR	Fantastical 3	flexibits.com	$4.99/month	iOS 13 or later
WEATHER	Carrot Weather 2	meetcarrot.com	$4.99	iOS 11 or later

> macOS APPS

CATEGORY	PRODUCT	WEB	PRICE	NEEDS
TO DO (PRODUCTIVITY)	Things 3	culturedcode.com	$49.99	OS X 10.11 or later
WRITING	Ulysses 21	ulysses.app	$49.99/year	macOS 10.14.4 or later
EMAIL	Canary Mail 2	canarymail.io	$19.99	OS X 10.10 or later
PHOTO EDITOR	Affinity Photo	affinity.serif.com	$49.99	OS X 10.7 or later
VIDEO EDITOR	Final Cut Pro	apple.com	$299.99	macOS 10.13 or later
SCREEN CAPTURE	ScreenFlow 8	telestream.net	$129.00	macOS 10.12 or later
MUSIC CREATION	Logic Pro X	apple.com	$199.99	macOS 10.12 or later
FILE ORGANIZER	ForkLift 3	binarynights.com	$29.95	OS X 10.11 or later
DESKTOP PUBLISHING	Adobe InDesign	adobe.com	$20.99 (p/m)	macOS 10.13 or later
BACKUP	Carbon Copy Cloner	bombich.com	$39.99	OS X 10.10 or later
VIRTUALIZATION	Parallels Desktop 16	parellels.com	$79.99	macOS 10.13 or later
TIME-TRACKING	Tyme 3	tyme-app.com	$3.99/month	macOS 10.13.2 or later
PERSONAL FINANCE	Quicken	quicken.com	$34.99 (1 year)	OS X 10.11 or later

>>> HOME LIFE

BETTER LIVING THROUGH SMARTER TECHNOLOGY

> EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT…

THE SMART HOME DREAM

We've been promised a united smart home, so why does it seem to be fracturing even more?

BY ALEX COX

Peering through the mist, we're always looking for signs of unity in the smart home world. If the fractured smart home landscape could unite itself as a compatible whole, without the need to add rickety bridges to join together its many islands, that would be a good thing. It would mean a wider choice of hardware, stronger platform understanding, widespread compatibility, and (probably) an easier point of entry. One app could, as Apple's Home app tries to do, manage every smart device in your home — and you could choose the app you wanted to use.

Pie in the sky stuff, right? The entire history of computing is one of rival platforms battling it out; today, after 40 years of the home computer, it's a punch-up between the Mac, the PC, Linux, multiple incompatible phone systems, and a ream of consoles. We've not even begun to converge on a single point. One platform does not rule them all, because playing nice isn't in the best commercial interests of the parties involved. Just looking at Apple, because it's the easiest example to cite, it has very sensibly placed a huge emphasis on the security of its platform. But it's done so by (in the early days) requiring special hardware to be present in any device supporting HomeKit, and later requiring certified, licensed firmware. Whether you see this as Apple taking its pound of flesh really depends on your level of cynicism, but we've often cited its standoffish approach to letting folks play nice with HomeKit to be at least partly to blame for the still-slim range of fully compatible hardware.

LiveSignals from a smart camera like the Eve Cam aren't really what CHIP is made for — it's about communication and control.

THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

But there's a ray of hope… At the end of 2019, a working group named Project Connected Home over IP (or CHIP) was assembled by the Zigbee Alliance, with the aim to "develop and promote the adoption of a new, royalty-free connectivity standard to increase compatibility among smart home products, with security as a fundamental

Image rights: Eve Systems.

Imagine your smart lighting all working perfectly together, all from the same app, and having the freedom to buy whichever brand you like.

PLAYING NICE ISN'T IN THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED

› Hot hubs

1 HomePod mini

$99, apple.com

HomeKit's Achilles' heel could be healing. The mini is a tidy and (crucially) cost-effective bridge which brings access to HomeKit devices outside of the home. It's a great Siri speaker, too.

2 Samsung Smart Things Hub v3

Around $69, samsung.com

Samsung has hedged its bets here, chumming up with both Zigbee and Z-Wave, so you can mix and match your low-power local mesh network devices with this one hub even if they're outside the SmartThings range.

3 Amazon Echo Show 10

$249.99, amazon.com

The smart speaker/screen combo is not just a great way to get visual control over your Alexa devices. Like many in the Echo line, it works as a Zigbee hub in its own right.

Image rights clockwise from left: Signify Holding, Apple, Samsung, Amazon.

› Home control apps

1 Amazon Alexa

Free, Apple Store

Don't just look at Amazon's app as a conduit to Alexa – it's a great thing to fire up if you want to control a lot of different devices without hopping from app to app to do so.

2 Eve for HomeKit

Free, Apple Store

Like Apple's own Home app, just as capable, but organized in a much more sensible way, Eve's take on smart home control is a must if you're heavily invested in HomeKit hardware.

3 Apple Home

Free, Apple Store

The fact is that you've already got it – and if your kit is compatible, Apple's Home app gets you access to a whole lot of controls. It's on the Mac, too, which is a novelty.

IKEA is on board with Project CHIP – its entire Tradfri line currently speaks Zigbee, so that's not a huge surprise.

design tenet." Project CHIP is looking to make an open source standard, meaning it will be available for all to use, and for all to contribute to. If all goes to plan, CHIP will offer developers the chance to get a secure hook into all of the major smart assistants. Given that CHIP has attracted support from Google, Apple and Amazon, along with a list of Zigbee's existing associates like Samsung, Signify (parent company of Philips Hue) and Somfy, it's not a small-fry enterprise.

How committed are the members? A glance at those working on the project's GitHub page suggests they're highly involved. Apple in particular is getting stuck in to the development of CHIP, with many Apple engineers contributing vast chunks of CHIP's code. Others from Mountain View (which suggests they're working from Google's campus) have added code of their own, as have many Shenzen-based coders, presumably representing members like Huawei. We're confident that CHIP will come to light soon enough. It's set to apply to all kinds of smart home equipment initially, covering lighting and electrical, thermostats, door locks, security systems, TVs, access points, bridges, and more.

CHIPPING IN

A do-it-all communication standard is fantastic, until it isn't… We are thoroughly behind Project CHIP, and we're on board with its ideals. It tears away the need for specific transmission protocols, working over Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and (potentially) anything that could feasibly take IP traffic. It also works over the same networks as Thread (see left), Amazon's 900MHz

Threading the needle

Work on Thread started in 2018 and is gaining traction. Like Project CHIP, it works over IP, so it uses a familiar set of tools to help developers get started. The idea is that Thread can help bring internet and cloud connectivity to low-powered devices which would normally be stuck with a local connection, basically by using the same mesh networking method as Zigbee (802.15.4) but adding an IPv6 communication layer. Thread doesn't care about the application layer, so it's compatible with the likes of Project CHIP. It's open, too, though those using it must conform to a standard. Thread's biggest-name appearance thus far has been in Google's Nest Wi-Fi routers and access points, and now the HomePod mini. Only now, though, are we seeing end-user kit, rather than just the chips required to add Thread. First comes Nanoleaf's new Essentials line, a set of cheap smart bulbs and LED strips with, apparently, the ability to communicate without a hub. We'll test them soon.

Image rights clockwise from top left: Amazon, Eve Systems, Apple, Ikea.

Walking tall

The next gen of Tile devices should be able to find themselves over a much wider area.

Amazon's Sidewalk is another new entry in the smart device comms canon, and another which can happily carry Project CHIP data. Amazon is directing Sidewalk at devices which require long-range communications with low-power hardware – things like item trackers, sensors, and so on. It's a mesh network running on the 900MHz band; that's slower than many radio bands, and doesn't give devices much bandwidth, but its higher wavelength means it can penetrate further.

The keys to Sidewalk's success will be adoption. Devices like Amazon's new Echo range and certain Ring cameras (generally those with wall power) can act as Sidewalk repeaters, passing on the signals not only of devices of their owners, but of any Sidewalk-enabled smart device in the vicinity (if permissions are granted). It's believed the long-term aim is to turn Sidewalk into a cities-wide mesh network. With a number of repeaters slowly popping up, early Sidewalk devices are on the way: Tile promises Sidewalk-enabled trackers soon, which will make a lot more sense than the current crop of Bluetooth trackers.

Sidewalk network (see above), and can work with Bluetooth Low Energy devices too. The problem, though, is that introducing new standards is not a solution to the problem of there being too many standards. New standards mean more standards. Crucially, no company on the CHIP team has committed to canning their own standard. Zigbee will still do Zigbee things (which makes sense, given that Zigbee uses a non-IP protocol to communicate), Apple will continue to plug away with HomeKit, and so on.

Obviously, there's no sense in tossing away a standard, bricking potentially millions of devices which use it in favor of a new and as-yet unproven communication system. What is with us now will be with us for a long time. CHIP is designed to be compatible with a wide range of existing hardware, including that which can currently support Alexa et al; only if it proves itself to be better and more popular will those older standards start to be phased out. And it'll take its time getting started, because if manufacturers have security concerns about an open, fresh standard then they simply won't use it. They'll fall back on Amazon's friendly API, or Google's, or Apple's. They'll use Zigbee, or one of the different standards that seem to be popping up to complement (or replace) it. And everyone involved in developing CHIP knows it.

Upgrading a device like the Amazon Echo to support CHIP is, in theory, a trivial task.

So CHIP's rollout will be slow, for the most part. We expect those creating smart hubs to work with it almost immediately once it's ratified. The baked-in hardware compatibility should mean that adding CHIP support to, say, a HomePod is simple. In terms of products, there may well be those companies that get behind CHIP as soon as they can, but (again) we'd also expect that many won't re-engineer their hardware for a new standard when the current standards work fine. If their rivals aren't implementing CHIP, many firms will continue as they are. Its adoption hinges on a major company making it a major part of their hardware, and it being proven to be worth their time.

Most end users have their platform and stick to it, and while "more compatible hardware for your particular smart home" is a big sell, users aren't going to be rushing to buy CHIP-certified kit. For better or worse, CHIP's open status is going to make it highly attractive to startups and those pushing out budget kit. There's no license to pay for, so if the API is easy to use and CHIP's range of abilities are as strong as it appears they will be, there'll be a raft of new, cheap smart home gear that's made viable by its possibilities.

LET THE CHIPS FALL...

There's unlikely to be a universal app that works with everything, because those standard divisions will still be present. CHIP will give rise to more apps, not fewer. There's likely to be a complex certification process from Apple, Google et al, to ensure that device creators' execution of this open standard meets the exact specs of main line smart environments. In theory, anyone can make CHIP devices, but if they're poor and spoil the experience of Alexa or HomeKit they'll do more harm than good.

So, can Project CHIP be the one standard to rule them all? That remains to be seen. We've not tried a device talking CHIP, because the standard isn't complete. But we're happy to say that it has the right idea, however difficult that idea may end up being to make reality, and it'll absolutely make an impact. Until the next standard comes along.

Image rights clockwise from top: Tile, Amazon.

ASK

TECH SUPPORT & TECHSPLANATIONS

Email Mac|Life at **ask@maclife.com**

Hot topics right now

Make sure you check out these important support articles on Apple's website to better understand the latest features.

YOUR OLD MAC ISN'T VINTAGE OR OBSOLETE

Though we've covered the topic before, Apple has renamed its vintage and obsolete products page to "Obtaining service for your Apple product after an expired warranty". Good to know! bit.ly/ml177ask1.

CAMERAS SUPPORTED BY iMOVIE ON macOS

Many camcorders and digital cameras are supported by iMovie for macOS, but if you want to check to see if yours is on the list, go to bit.ly/ml177ask2.

GET AN OLDER VERSION OF macOS

Earlier versions of macOS are still available to download from Apple, so you don't have to upgrade to Big Sur (if you don't want to, or can't). Here's how to get access: bit.ly/ml177ask3.

> My Mac is now unresponsive after a silent update

Shortly after I started my iMac up, it became unresponsive. Looking in Activity Monitor, two processes, MRT and trustd, have taken over its processor. Is it infected by malware?

Almost certainly not. Open About This Mac at the top of the Apple menu, and click on the System Report button to open System Information. Select Installations at the left, then click twice on the header of the Install Date column. That lists installations in chronological order, with the latest at the top.

You will likely see a recent entry for MRTConfigData 1.68, a silent security update which has caused these problems, as it did for many before Apple pulled that update. Fixing this isn't easy. Restart in Recovery mode, open Terminal there, disable SIP with the command:

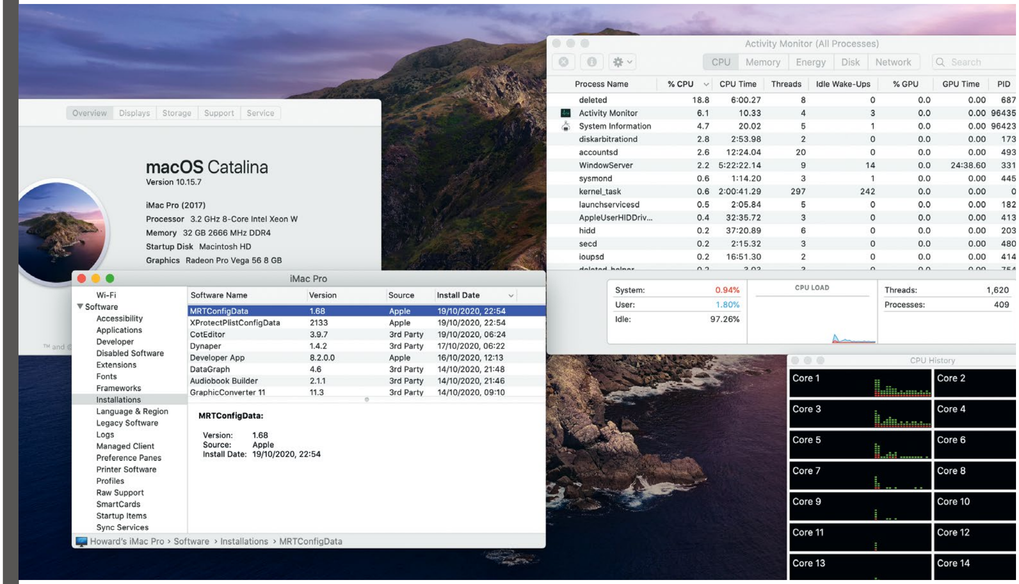
```
csrutil disable
```

and restart as normal. Locate MRT.app, which is in /System/Library/CoreServices or /Library/Apple/System/Library/CoreServices in Catalina and Big Sur. With SIP disabled you can rename that to MRT.app.bak. Restart into Recovery mode again and enable SIP with the command:

```
csrutil enable
```

then restart.

The offending malware removal tool MRT should now be disabled, which means until it has been updated to a bug-free version again it won't automatically remove any malware from your Mac, but at least it won't slow it down like treacle again.


Overview
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Storage
Support
Service
macOS Catalina
Activity Monitor (All Processes)
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Memory
Energy
Disk
Network
Search
CPU LOAD
CPU History
Core 1
Core 2
Core 3
Core 4
Core 5
Core 6
Core 7
Core 8
Core 9
Core 10
Core 11
Core 12
Core 13
Core 14
iMac Pro
Wi-Fi
Software
Accessibility
Applications
Developer
Disabled Software
Extensions
Fonts
Frameworks
Installations
Language & Region
Legacy Software
Logs
Managed Client
Preference Panes
Printer Software
Profiles
Raw Support
SmartCards
Startup Items
Sync Services
Howard's iMac Pro › Software › Installations › MRTConfigData

Version 10.15.7

iMac Pro (2017)
Processor 3.2 GHz 8-Core Intel Xeon W
Memory 32 GB 2666 MHz DDR4
Startup Disk Macintosh HD
Graphics Radeon Pro Vega 56 8 GB

Process Name	% CPU	CPU Time	Threads	Idle Wake-Ups	% GPU	GPU Time	PID
deleted	18.8	6:00.27	8	0	0.0	0.00	687
Activity Monitor	6.1	10.33	4	3	0.0	0.00	96435
System Information	4.7	20.02	5	1	0.0	0.00	96423
diskarbitrationd	2.8	2:53.98	2	0	0.0	0.00	173
accountsd	2.6	12:24.04	20	0	0.0	0.00	493
WindowServer	2.2	5:22:22.14	9	14	0.0	24:38.60	331
sysmond	0.6	1:14.20	3	1	0.0	0.00	445
kernel_task	0.6	2:00:41.29	297	242	0.0	0.00	0
launchservicesd	0.5	2:05.84	5	0	0.0	0.00	182
AppleUserHIDDriv...	0.4	32:35.72	3	0	0.0	0.00	413
hidd	0.2	37:20.89	6	0	0.0	0.00	203
secd	0.2	2:15.32	3	0	0.0	0.00	480
ioupsd	0.2	16:51.30	2	0	0.0	0.00	414

System: 0.94%
User: 1.80%
Idle: 97.26%
Threads: 1,620
Processes: 409

Software Name	Version	Source	Install Date
MRTConfigData	1.68	Apple	19/10/2020, 22:54
XProtectPlistConfigData	2133	Apple	19/10/2020, 22:54
CotEditor	3.9.7	3rd Party	19/10/2020, 06:24
Dynaper	1.4.2	3rd Party	17/10/2020, 06:22
Developer App	8.2.0.0	Apple	16/10/2020, 12:13
DataGraph	4.6	3rd Party	14/10/2020, 21:48
Audiobook Builder	2.1.1	3rd Party	14/10/2020, 21:46
GraphicConverter 11	11.3	3rd Party	14/10/2020, 09:10

MRTConfigData:

Version: 1.68
Source: Apple
Install Date: 19/10/2020, 22:54

Check Activity Monitor when your Mac has performance problems. Here, a recent update to Apple's Malware Removal Tool MRT is responsible.

Image rights: Apple, Inc.

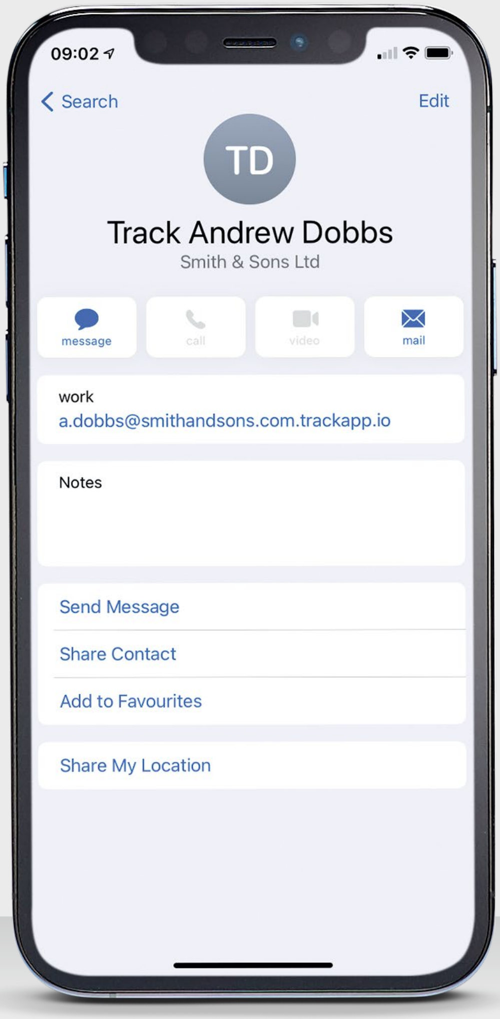
› Deactivating email tracking

We mistakenly installed Track, which provides tracking details about your Gmail messages. Although I've now deleted the app, it gets into your Contacts and creates duplicate entries, and seems to have altered our email addresses too. How can we repair this damage?

The app you installed by mistake is a service which works by diverting all your email messages via its own servers so it can track them for you. To accomplish that it modifies addresses stored in Contacts and accesses your Gmail account. It should have a feature to rectify those before disabling the service and deleting it, but you're probably reluctant to reinstall it to find out.

You should be able to fix these issues manually. First, log onto your Gmail account and withdraw your permission to give that app access to your account, in the Access Granted to Third Parties section. That should stop any further redirection being performed on the Gmail servers.

The other and more laborious task is to work through all the entries in Contacts stripping out email addresses like jsmith@mail.com.trackapp.io, leaving only their originals. If you have many to correct, spend a little time planning how best to do this efficiently. If you normally share your Contacts in iCloud, those changes will have propagated to all your computers and devices which share that account. It's then best to leave sharing turned on, so that corrections made on one system will be reflected on them all. You may also wish to perform this task on your Mac or iPad rather than on an iPhone's smaller display.



Track Andrew Dobbs
Smith & Sons Ltd

work
a.dobbs@smithandsons.com.trackapp.io

Notes

This email tracking service created duplicate entries, each of which needs to be removed when cleaning up.

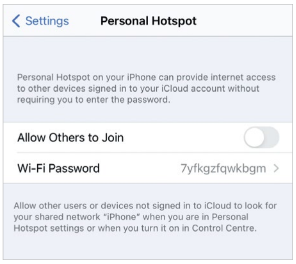
Quick-fire questions & answers

HOW TO RESTORE BATTERY LIFE AFTER iOS 14 UPGRADES?

This should settle when iOS has been brought up to date and your phone's been running it for a while. Some do a full factory reset, but that seldom does much. Check which apps are using most power at the foot of Settings › Battery and limit wasteful apps.

HOW TO TURN OFF MY iPHONE'S PERSONAL HOTSPOT?

In iOS and iPadOS 13.1 or later, you can't turn off Personal Hotspot unless you disable your mobile connection or turn Airplane Mode on. It's always available to other devices on the same iCloud account and through Family Sharing, but you control whether to allow others to join.



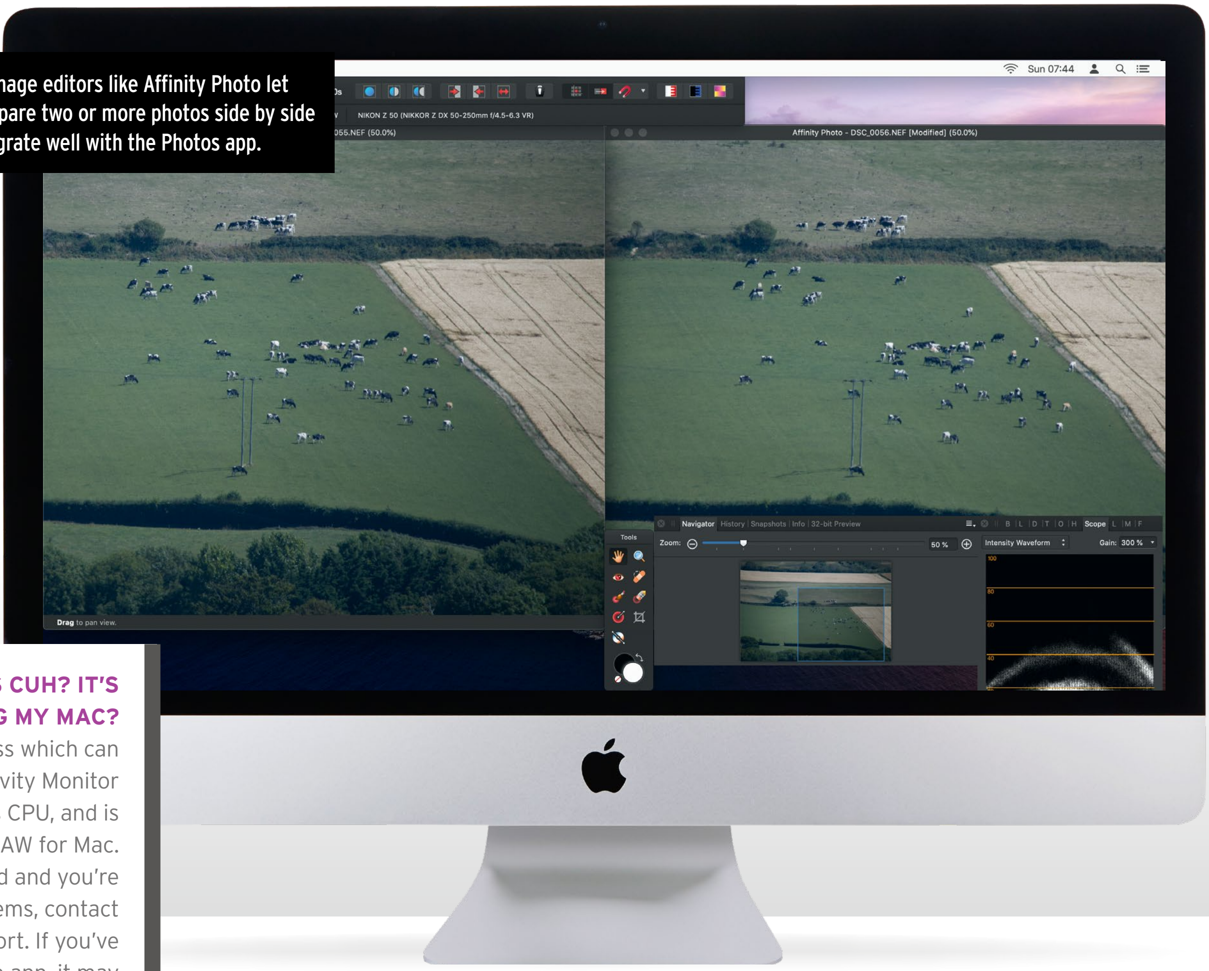
Personal Hotspot on your iPhone can provide internet access to other devices signed in to your iCloud account without requiring you to enter the password.

Allow Others to Join ○

Wi-Fi Password 7yfkgzfqwkbgm ›

Allow other users or devices not signed in to iCloud to look for your shared network "iPhone" when you are in Personal Hotspot settings or when you turn it on in Control Centre.

Image rights: Apple, Inc.


Sun 07:44
NIKON Z 50 (NIKKOR Z DX 50-250mm f/4.5-6.3 VR)
Affinity Photo - DSC_0056.NEF [Modified] (50.0%)
Drag to pan view.
Navigator History Snapshots Info 32-bit Preview
Tools
Zoom:
50 %
Scope
Intensity Waveform
Gain: 300 %

Better image editors like Affinity Photo let you compare two or more photos side by side and integrate well with the Photos app.

› Running iPhoto on a new Mac

I'm still using iPhoto version 9.5.1 in Mavericks, but plan to buy a new iMac. iPhoto has one feature that I need, the ability to compare two photos side by side, which isn't in Photos. Can I still run iPhoto on my new iMac?

You can still run iPhoto on your new iMac, using the free Retroactive from bit.ly/mac360rtroactv, and that seems to work with Big Sur too. However, as iPhoto has been unsupported for years and Photos is becoming increasingly incompatible as time goes on, it's likely to get harder for users to convert old iPhoto libraries to be compatible with Photos in the future. You should also be planning for that.

Although there's no sign of Photos getting the same comparison feature, it does offer before and after picture comparison when editing. When you have made a change in Edit mode, simply press and hold the M key to see the original before that particular edit. To compare the effects of changes such as cropping, use Ctrl+M instead when you're in Adjust or Filter views; oddly, that doesn't work in Crop view.

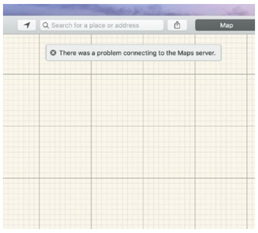
Third-party image editors, such as Affinity Photo (affinity.serif.com), enable you to open and compare multiple images, and are now well-integrated with Photos. They also offer a great deal more power and flexibility than the limited editing tools available in either iPhoto or Photos. When you want to discover duplicate images in your library, there are other tools such as Fat Cat's Power Photos, costing $29.95 (store.fatcatsoftware.com) which should do the job well, although its support for iPhotos libraries is waning.

WHAT IS CUH? IT'S SLOWING MY MAC?

CUH is a process which can appear in Activity Monitor taking up excess CPU, and is part of CorelDRAW for Mac. If that's installed and you're having problems, contact Corel support. If you've removed the app, it may need separate uninstallation, try searching for it and manually removing it.

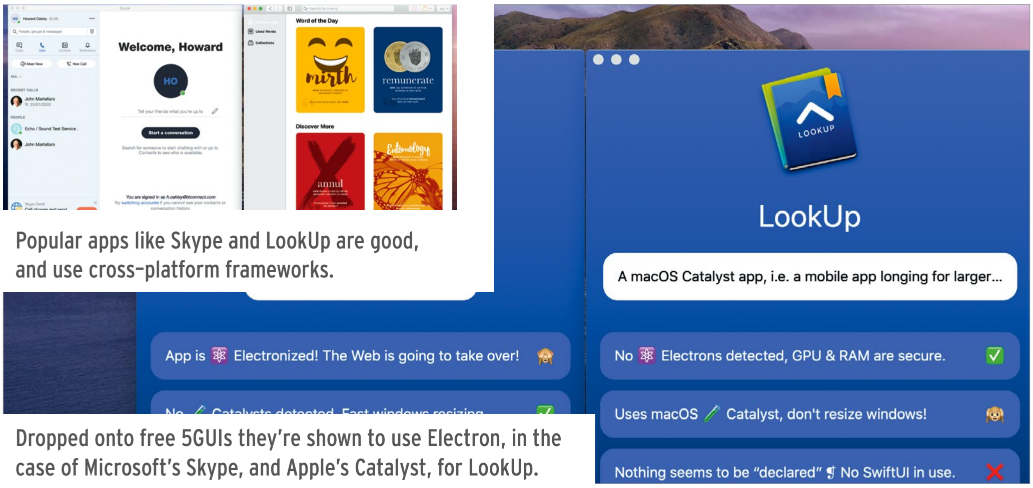
WHY HAS MY NEW ANTI-VIRUS DISABLED MAPS?

› Maps relies on the internet for its data. If the anti-virus software is blocking that, Maps will either look blank, or contain limited info. If you want to carry on using that protection, read its documentation carefully, but you'd probably be better off using a different product.



There was a problem connecting to the Maps server.

Image rights from top: Serif, Apple.



A macOS Catalyst app, i.e. a mobile app longing for larger...

App is ⚛ Electronized! The Web is going to take over! 🙈

No ⚛ Electrons detected, GPU & RAM are secure. ✅

Uses macOS 🧪 Catalyst, don't resize windows! 🙈

Nothing seems to be "declared" ❡ No SwiftUI in use. ❌

Popular apps like Skype and LookUp are good, and use cross-platform frameworks.

Dropped onto free 5GUIs they're shown to use Electron, in the case of Microsoft's Skype, and Apple's Catalyst, for LookUp.

Spot the Electron apps

I have been advised to steer clear of Electron and Catalyst apps. How can I tell whether an app uses either?

Many good Mac apps are built using Electron, Catalyst, or another framework to make development quicker, and support multiple platforms. Judge the final products rather than how they've got there. These frameworks can have drawbacks: Electron apps have been vulnerable to security attacks, and Catalyst apps are prone to design shortcomings, which are easily assessed.

Working out whether an app uses a framework requires deep insights into its code and structure which even the most advanced user can't hope to achieve. Helge Heß of ZeeZide has built a free app to distinguish these and other types such as apps built using AppleScript. His 5GUIs tool is available free from the App Store, and its source code is at bit.ly/mac360zeezide.

DO I NEED TO INSTALL JAVA FOR *MINECRAFT*?

The *Minecraft* game is available in Java and Bedrock Editions. The latter has been ported to other platforms including iOS, but isn't available for macOS. *Minecraft* Java Edition is available for Mac, and should come bundled with the correct version of Java to work well.

WHERE HAVE TOP SITES GONE?

Safari 14 removes Top Sites, replacing them with Favorites, which aren't the same. Try the options for the Start Page at its lower-right corner. These let you add the Frequently Visited links to the Start Page, which may work as a substitute.

Twitter without distractions

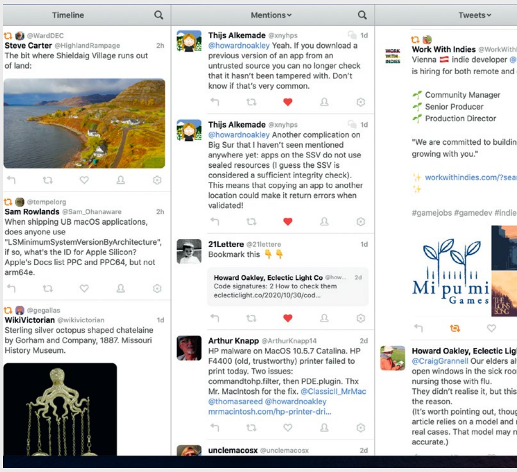
Is there an alternative to Twitter without its notifications and promoted tweets?

If you want instant access to live tweets, particularly if you use Direct Messages, Twitter is the best choice, as it uses the service's live feed to bring immediate updates. You also get promoted and other tweets which the service decides you might like. You can choose whether these are "interest-based" in your settings: in Personalization and data settings, change Personalize ads. That won't remove advertising, but the process will only use information which Twitter considers non-personal, including the content of your tweets and which other users you follow.

Two excellent alternatives are Tweetbot and Twitterific, which use different Twitter feeds so don't include promoted content. They also give you full control over notifications, which you can adjust using the Notifications pane.

The disadvantage of third-party Twitter clients is that they don't access the same immediate feed as the Twitter app. This can result in slight delays to tweets appearing, but is most noticeable with Direct Messages, which can be delayed by a minute or two. One solution is to use the Twitter app on another device, such as an iPhone, when you need immediacy.

A third-party app like Tweetbot (below) spares you Twitter's promoted content, but is slower, particularly for DMs.



@WardDEC
Steve Carter @HighlandRampage 2h
The bit where Shieldaig Village runs out of land:

@tempelorg
Sam Rowlands @Sam_Ohanaware 2h
When shipping UB macOS applications, does anyone use "LSMinimumSystemVersionByArchitecture", if so, what's the ID for Apple Silicon? Apple's Docs list PPC and PPC64, but not arm64e.

@gegallas
WikiVictorian @wikivictorian 1d
Sterling silver octopus shaped chatelaine by Gorham and Company, 1887. Missouri History Museum.

Thijs Alkemade @xnyhps 1d
@howardnoakley Yeah. If you download a previous version of an app from an untrusted source you can no longer check that it hasn't been tampered with. Don't know if that's very common.

Thijs Alkemade @xnyhps 1d
@howardnoakley Another complication on Big Sur that I haven't seen mentioned anywhere yet: apps on the SSV do not use sealed resources (I guess the SSV is considered a sufficient integrity check). This means that copying an app to another location could make it return errors when validated!

21Lettere @21lettere 1d
Bookmark this 👇 👇

Howard Oakley, Eclectic Light Co @how... 2d
Code signatures: 2 How to check them
eclecticlight.co/2020/10/30/cod...

Arthur Knapp @ArthurKnapp14 2d
HP malware on MacOS 10.5.7 Catalina. HP F4400 (old, trustworthy) printer failed to print today. Two issues: commandtohp.filter, then PDE.plugin. Thx Mr. MacIntosh for the fix. @ClassicII_MrMac @thomasareed @howardnoakley mrmacintosh.com/hp-printer-dri...

unclemacosx @unclemacosx 2d

Work With Indies @WorkWith
Vienna 🇦🇹 indie developer @
is hiring for both remote and

🌱 Community Manager
🌱 Senior Producer
🌱 Production Director

"We are committed to buildin
growing with you."

✨ workwithindies.com/?sea
✨

#gamejobs #gamedev #indie

Howard Oakley, Eclectic Lig
@CraigGrannell Our elders al
open windows in the sick roo
nursing those with flu.
They didn't realise it, but this
the reason.
(It's worth pointing out, thoug
article relies on a model and
real cases. That model may n
accurate.)

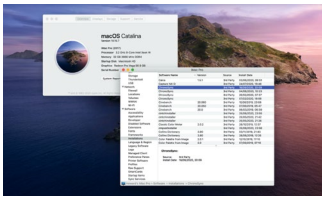
Image rights from top: Microsoft, Squircle Apps, Tapbots.

CAN MACOS SAVE DISK SPACE USING AUTO COMPRESSION?

System files have been doing this since OS X 10.6, but this feature hasn't been well supported for users or developers. This changes in Big Sur with the arrival of AppleArchive, although that's not intended for use for whole volumes.

WHERE CAN I SEE WHICH APPS HAVE BEEN UPDATED?

The closest macOS comes is in System Information. Select the Installations item under Software to show updates and software installations made using installers, including system software, and from the App Store. This doesn't include apps which use their own updaters, or which have been moved to the Applications folder.

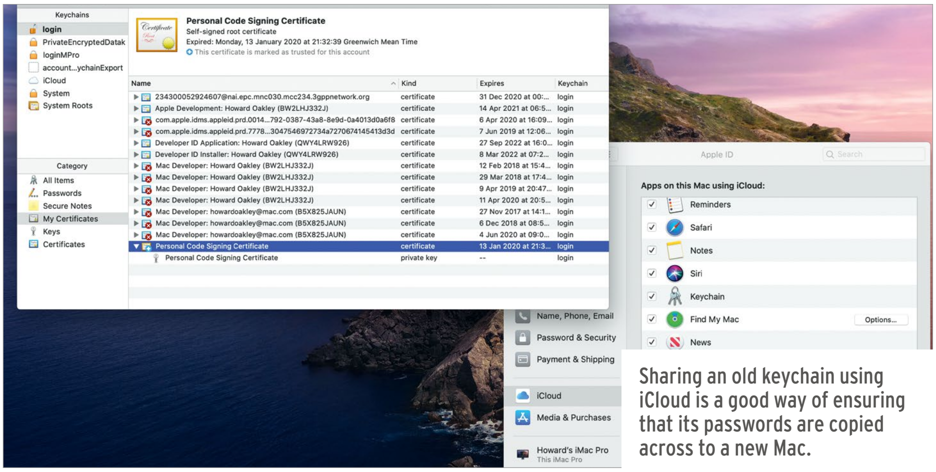

macOS Catalina

DOES MACOS EVER CHECK MY DISK FOR MALWARE?

XProtect checks for malicious software. In 10.15 and later, this checks all software you open, not just recent downloads, against its list of known malware, which is updated every couple of weeks.

HOW BEST TO CHECK AND REPAIR MY STARTUP DISK?

Unless you've got a bootable external disk running the same version of macOS, start up in Recovery mode, open Disk Utility and select the startup volumes, then run First Aid.


Keychains
login
PrivateEncryptedDatak
loginMPro
account...ychainExport
iCloud
System
System Roots
Category
All Items
Passwords
Secure Notes
My Certificates
Keys
Certificates
Name, Phone, Email
Password & Security
Payment & Shipping
iCloud
Media & Purchases
Howard's iMac Pro
This iMac Pro
Apple ID
Search
Options...

Personal Code Signing Certificate
Self-signed root certificate
Expired: Monday, 13 January 2020 at 21:32:39 Greenwich Mean Time
This certificate is marked as trusted for this account

Name	Kind	Expires	Keychain
234300052924607@nai.epc.mnc030.mcc234.3gppnetwork.org	certificate	31 Dec 2020 at 00:...	login
Apple Development: Howard Oakley (BW2LHJ332J)	certificate	14 Apr 2021 at 06:5...	login
com.apple.idms.appleid.prd.0014...792-0387-43a8-8e9d-0a4013d0a6f8	certificate	6 Apr 2020 at 16:09...	login
com.apple.idms.appleid.prd.7778...3047546972734a7270674145413d3d	certificate	7 Jun 2019 at 12:06...	login
Developer ID Application: Howard Oakley (QWY4LRW926)	certificate	27 Sep 2022 at 16:0...	login
Developer ID Installer: Howard Oakley (QWY4LRW926)	certificate	8 Mar 2022 at 07:2...	login
Mac Developer: Howard Oakley (BW2LHJ332J)	certificate	12 Feb 2018 at 15:4...	login
Mac Developer: Howard Oakley (BW2LHJ332J)	certificate	29 Mar 2018 at 17:4...	login
Mac Developer: Howard Oakley (BW2LHJ332J)	certificate	9 Apr 2019 at 20:47...	login
Mac Developer: Howard Oakley (BW2LHJ332J)	certificate	11 Apr 2020 at 20:5...	login
Mac Developer: howardoakley@mac.com (B5X825JAUN)	certificate	27 Nov 2017 at 14:1...	login
Mac Developer: howardoakley@mac.com (B5X825JAUN)	certificate	6 Dec 2018 at 08:5...	login
Mac Developer: howardoakley@mac.com (B5X825JAUN)	certificate	4 Jun 2020 at 09:0...	login
Personal Code Signing Certificate	certificate	13 Jan 2020 at 21:3...	login
Personal Code Signing Certificate	private key	--	login

Apps on this Mac using iCloud:

- ☑ Reminders
- ☑ Safari
- ☑ Notes
- ☑ Siri
- ☑ Keychain
- ☑ Find My Mac
- ☑ News

Sharing an old keychain using iCloud is a good way of ensuring that its passwords are copied across to a new Mac.

How to move a keychain

I need to copy my keychain from my last Mac, and was surprised to find two files for its login keychain. Which one should I copy?

Until the release of macOS Sierra in 2016, your Mac's main keychain was kept in login.keychain in the Keychains folder in your Home folder Library. macOS then changed to using an encrypted database stored in login.keychain-db instead, and that is the keychain which you should copy across.

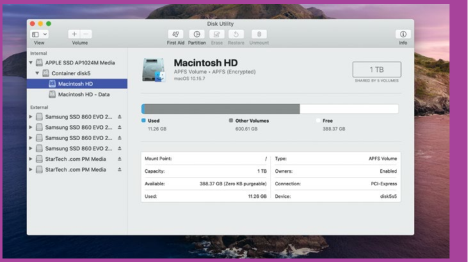
Copying keychains isn't always a success: it's a good way to preserve access to the passwords and certificates kept in it, but unless they're copied from there into the active keychain, you'll probably have to keep unlocking that old keychain manually. There are two ways around this. One is to migrate from the older system, during which all old entries will be copied across to your new keychain. Or use Keychain in iCloud to share the contents of the old keychain, which will ensure they're available to a new system which is also sharing the same account.

Getting an update to stick

I can't update my Mac from Catalina 10.15.6 to 10.15.7. Each time I update and restart, it's stuck with the old version. How can I get the update to work?

Ensure you haven't modified your System, for example by disabling SIP. If you can't get Software Update to work, try a standalone installer from bit.ly/mac360downlo. If necessary, download and run the Combo updater. If none of those methods work, you may need to perform a clean reinstall. Make at least one complete backup and ensure that all your important files have been saved to it, then restart your Mac with the Opt+ Cmd+R keys held down on a wired keyboard, or from a bootable external copy of macOS 10.15.7. Open Disk Utility, select your startup System volume, by default named Macintosh HD, and click on the Erase tool. Format it in APFS with a GUID Partition Map, and enter your Apple ID if prompted.

Once the volume has been erased, install macOS. You may then be presented with a choice of volumes on which to install it: pick the newly formatted System volume named Macintosh HD. With a bit of luck, your Mac will end up with macOS 10.15.7 installed and connected to its original Data volume, which won't need any further restoration.


Disk Utility
View
Volume
First Aid
Partition
Erase
Restore
Unmount
Info
Internal
APPLE SSD AP1024M Media
Container disk5
Macintosh HD
Macintosh HD - Data
External
Samsung SSD 860 EVO 2...
Samsung SSD 860 EVO 2...
Samsung SSD 860 EVO 2...
Samsung SSD 860 EVO 2...
StarTech .com PM Media
StarTech .com PM Media
1 TB
SHARED BY 5 VOLUMES
Used
Other Volumes
Free

Macintosh HD
APFS Volume • APFS (Encrypted)
macOS 10.15.7

Used: 11.26 GB
Other Volumes: 600.61 GB
Free: 388.37 GB

Mount Point:	/	Type:	APFS Volume
Capacity:	1 TB	Owners:	Enabled
Available:	388.37 GB (Zero KB purgeable)	Connection:	PCI-Express
Used:	11.26 GB	Device:	disk5s5

When reinstalling Catalina, erase the System volume, usually Macintosh HD. The fresh system should connect to your existing Data volume.

Image rights: Apple.

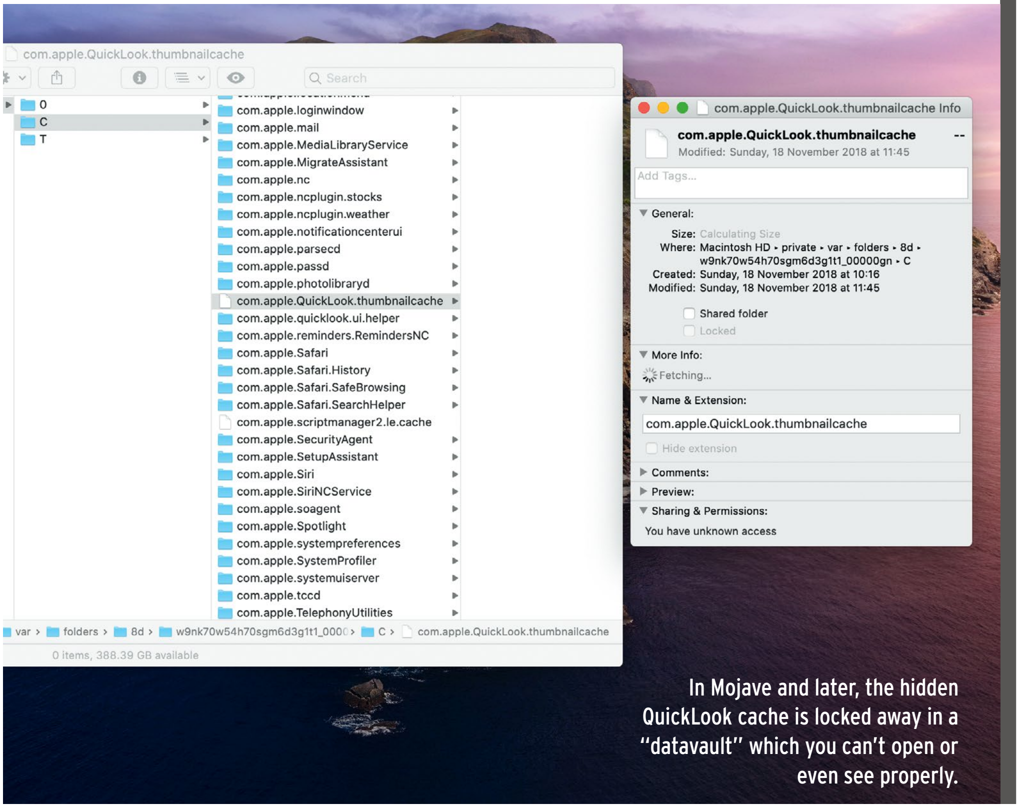
› Checking in the cache

I have lost an old photo, which was on my previous Mac. I have its last Time Machine backup on a hard disk, however can't find it there. Could I check the QuickLook Cache on that, perhaps?

In High Sierra and earlier, it may be possible to recover old images from a startup disk even when the original has been lost or damaged. QuickLook, which is responsible for creating Finder thumbnails and previews, generates these and stores them as files inside a cache. By inspecting the contents of that folder, you may be lucky enough to find the image that's gone missing.

The cache is located in the hidden folder /var/folders/t9/[long ID]/C/com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache where [long ID] is a seemingly random jumble of characters, but only on a startup disk. There are two problems which make this of limited value. It was recognized as a security vulnerability over two years ago, and Apple responded by locking it down to make the cache essentially inaccessible in Mojave. So if that system was upgraded to macOS 10.14 or later, you'll no longer be able to open it.

That folder's contents are considered by macOS to be ephemeral, so they aren't backed up by Time Machine either. Neither is the old QuickLook cache carried across during migration from an old system to a new one. Cloning the disk using a third-party utility like Carbon Copy Cloner should make a copy of it. Unless there's a normal backup copy on the old hard disk, you won't find it there.


com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache
Search
0
C
T
com.apple.loginwindow
com.apple.mail
com.apple.MediaLibraryService
com.apple.MigrateAssistant
com.apple.nc
com.apple.ncplugin.stocks
com.apple.ncplugin.weather
com.apple.notificationcenterui
com.apple.parsecd
com.apple.passd
com.apple.photolibraryd
com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache
com.apple.quicklook.ui.helper
com.apple.reminders.RemindersNC
com.apple.Safari
com.apple.Safari.History
com.apple.Safari.SafeBrowsing
com.apple.Safari.SearchHelper
com.apple.scriptmanager2.le.cache
com.apple.SecurityAgent
com.apple.SetupAssistant
com.apple.Siri
com.apple.SiriNCService
com.apple.soagent
com.apple.Spotlight
com.apple.systempreferences
com.apple.SystemProfiler
com.apple.systemuiserver
com.apple.tccd
com.apple.TelephonyUtilities
var › folders › 8d › w9nk70w54h70sgm6d3g1t1_000 › C › com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache
0 items, 388.39 GB available
com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache Info
Add Tags…
General:
More Info:
Fetching…
Name & Extension:
Comments:
Preview:
Sharing & Permissions:

com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache --
Modified: Sunday, 18 November 2018 at 11:45

Size: Calculating Size
Where: Macintosh HD ▸ private ▸ var ▸ folders ▸ 8d ▸ w9nk70w54h70sgm6d3g1t1_00000gn ▸ C
Created: Sunday, 18 November 2018 at 10:16
Modified: Sunday, 18 November 2018 at 11:45

☐ Shared folder
☐ Locked

com.apple.QuickLook.thumbnailcache
☐ Hide extension

You have unknown access

In Mojave and later, the hidden QuickLook cache is locked away in a "datavault" which you can't open or even see properly.

Essential support articles

Our advice may refer to the following features; check out the support articles linked below for full instructions.

macOS RECOVERY

The Recovery system contains tools to help you look up info online when macOS won't start, and to repair or reinstall the system. Learn more at bit.ly/mlrecovery.

SAFE MODE

When you start your Mac in Safe mode, macOS performs extra checks and stops certain third-party software from running. See how to use it at bit.ly/mlsafemode.

RESET SMC & NVRAM

These features handle low-level functions and store key settings for your Mac, respectively. Resetting them can fix various issues described at bit.ly/mlresetsmc **and** bit.ly/mlresetnvram.

HARDWARE ISSUES

Your Mac includes tools that check for certain hardware issues without going to a Genius Bar. For Macs introduced in June 2013 or later, see bit.ly/mldiag**, otherwise see** bit.ly/mlahwt.

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FACEBOOK: facebook.com/maclife **TWITTER:** twitter.com/maclife

Image rights: Apple.

CREATE

HOW TO DO ANYTHING ON YOUR MAC, iPHONE & iPAD

Get the best from Safari

Discover all the new features of Apple's updated web browser

REQUIRES
macOS 10.14
or later

YOU WILL LEARN
About the key new
features in Safari 14

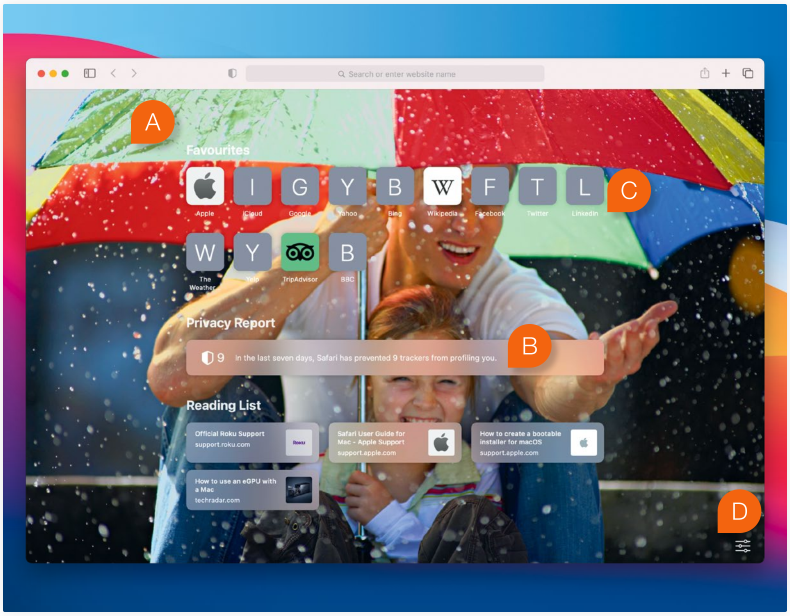
IT WILL TAKE
15 minutes

WHEN APPLE REVEALED the new version of Safari that's included with macOS 11 Big Sur, it said this would be Safari's "biggest update ever." As well as providing faster browsing and, therefore, helping to prolong your MacBook's battery life, the new version of Safari is packed with features that make browsing your favorite websites easier. It also provides stronger controls to protect your privacy online.

The new features focus on three main areas – the revamped Start Page, improved privacy, and more versatile tab management. The Start Page can now be customized to suit your personal browsing preferences, with a new Options menu that allows you to select the sites and information that it displays, and even to select a personalized background image. Another key feature is the new Privacy Report, which provides information about advertising "trackers" that are trying to spy on your browsing habits.

It's also worth noting that the latest version of Safari runs on Catalina and Mojave as well as Big Sur. **CLIFF JOSEPH**

QUICK LOOK Safari 14's new look and features


Search or enter website name
A
Favourites
Apple
iCloud
Google
Yahoo
Bing
Wikipedia
Facebook
Twitter
LinkedIn
C
The Weather
Yelp
TripAdvisor
BBC
Privacy Report
B
Reading List
Official Roku Support
support.roku.com
Safari User Guide for Mac - Apple Support
support.apple.com
How to create a bootable installer for macOS
support.apple.com
How to use an eGPU with a Mac
techradar.com
D

9 In the last seven days, Safari has prevented 9 trackers from profiling you.

A

BACKGROUND
You can now select a variety of standard background images for your Start page, or use your own photos.

B

TRACKERS
The new Privacy Report shows you all the trackers that Safari has blocked from following you online.

C

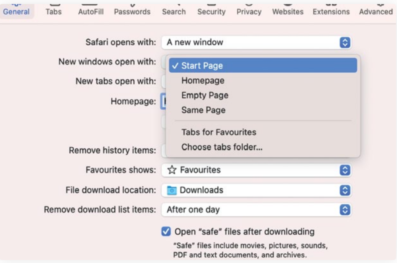
KEEPING TABS
Safari can finally show "favicons" (icons associated with websites) on tabs, and even a preview of each tabbed page.

D

ON THE MENU
Safari's new Options menu provides lots of options for customizing the Start page (see the walkthrough opposite).

Image rights: Apple.

HOW TO Tailor preferences and options in Safari


General
Tabs
AutoFill
Passwords
Search
Security
Privacy
Websites
Extensions
Advanced

Safari opens with: A new window

New windows open with: ✓ Start Page

Homepage
Empty Page
Same Page
Tabs for Favourites
Choose tabs folder...

New tabs open with:

Homepage:

Remove history items:

Favourites shows: Favourites

File download location: Downloads

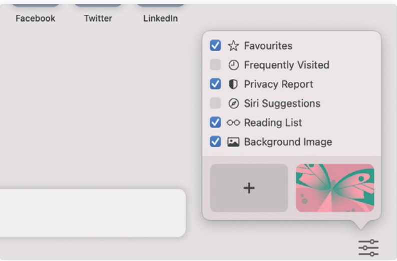
Remove download list items: After one day

☑ Open "safe" files after downloading

"Safe" files include movies, pictures, sounds, PDF and text documents, and archives.

1 Starting Safari

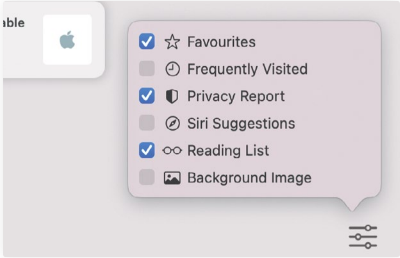
The new Start page is a key part of Safari 14, but your Mac may not show it automatically as this depends on how you have Safari set up. Open Safari Prefs > General, and set "New windows open with" to the Start Page.


Facebook
Twitter
LinkedIn
+

☑ Favourites
☐ Frequently Visited
☑ Privacy Report
☐ Siri Suggestions
☑ Reading List
☑ Background Image

2 Options menu

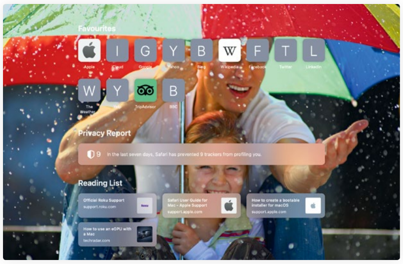
You can customize your Start page by using the new Options menu, located down in the bottom-right corner of the window. There are several options, but let's start by looking at the ones for faster browsing.



☑ Favourites
☐ Frequently Visited
☑ Privacy Report
☐ Siri Suggestions
☑ Reading List
☐ Background Image

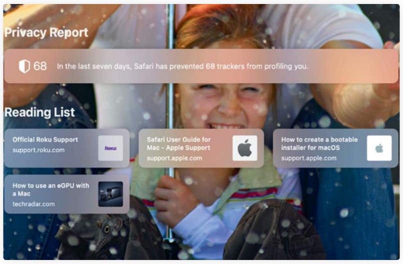
3 Faster browsing

To speed things up, you can set the Start page to display your Favorites and Reading List, as well as pages you often visit. Selecting Siri Suggestions, makes the page look a bit cluttered, so let's turn that off for now.


Favourites
Privacy Report
Reading List

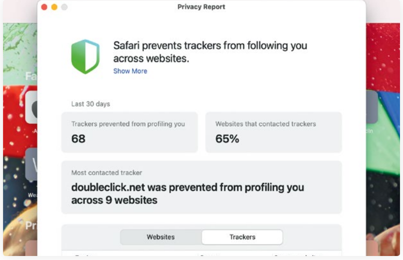
4 Background images

You can also customize the Start page with your own background image. There's a set of backgrounds already built into the Options menu, but you can select an image of your own by clicking "+" in the menu.


Privacy Report
68
In the last seven days, Safari has prevented 68 trackers from profiling you.
Reading List
Official Roku Support
support.roku.com
Safari User Guide for Mac - Apple Support
support.apple.com
How to create a bootable installer for macOS
support.apple.com
How to use an eGPU with a Mac
techradar.com

5 In private

There's another vital feature now available on the Start page. The new Privacy Report tells you how many trackers have tried to monitor your browsing online over the last week, and have been blocked by Safari.


Privacy Report
Show More
Websites
Trackers

Safari prevents trackers from following you across websites.

Last 30 days

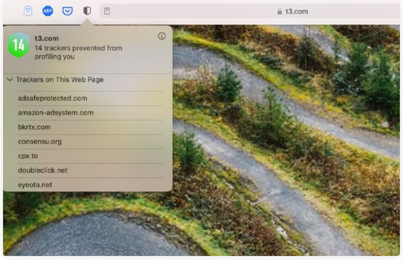
Trackers prevented from profiling you: 68

Websites that contacted trackers: 65%

Most contacted tracker: doubleclick.net was prevented from profiling you across 9 websites

6 Track and trace

Click on the Privacy Report to see more detailed information. You can view the trackers on each website, and also see which trackers appear most often. Safari also highlights the worst offenders, such as doubleclick.net, here.



t3.com

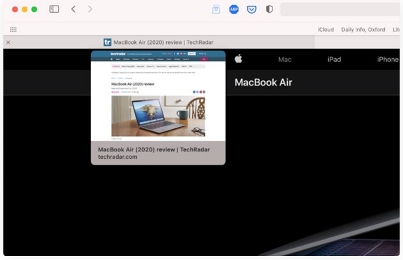
14 trackers prevented from profiling you

Trackers on This Web Page

adsafeprotected.com
amazon-adsystem.com
bkrtx.com
consensu.org
cpx.to
doubleclick.net
eyeota.net

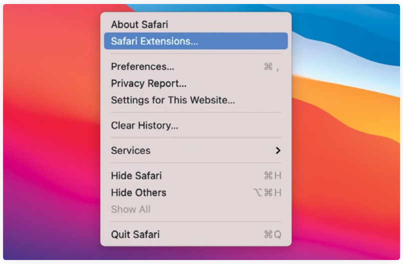
7 Who's watching?

For a quick privacy report on individual websites, click on the "shield" icon (left of the main address bar at the top of the window). Go to Safari > Prefs > Privacy to change any settings, such as Block All Cookies.


MacBook Air (2020) review | TechRadar
techradar.com
MacBook Air
Mac
iPad
iPhone

8 On the tab

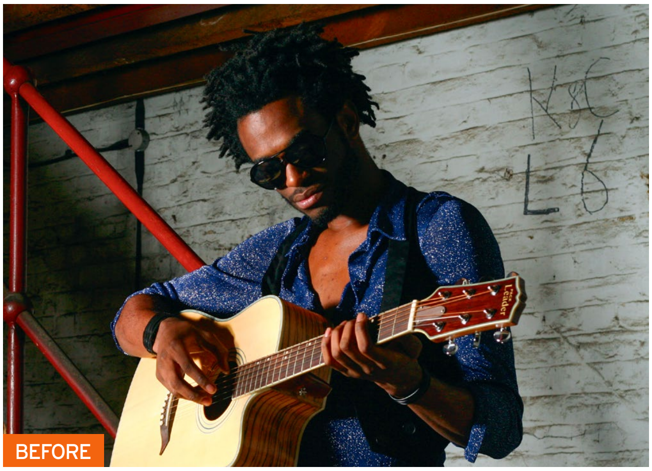
Tab management gets a much-needed boost too. Safari now supports "favicons," which make it easier to quickly identify multiple tabs. Hover the mouse over a tab to get a quick preview of that web page.


About Safari
Safari Extensions...
Preferences... ⌘,
Privacy Report...
Settings for This Website...
Clear History...
Services
Hide Safari ⌘H
Hide Others ⌥⌘H
Show All
Quit Safari ⌘Q

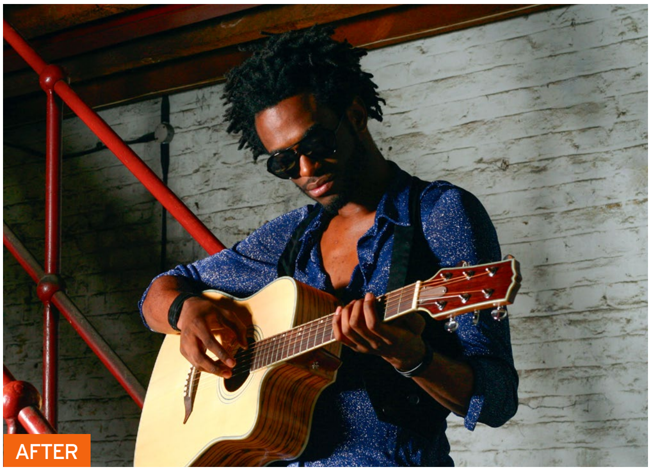
9 Extending Safari

Apple is encouraging developers to produce more "extensions," which can add other new features to Safari. Go to the main Safari menu and select Safari Extensions to see a selection you can download from the App Store.

Image rights: Apple.



BEFORE



AFTER

Master the Photos app

Adjust background blur, enhance video clips, and remove unwanted objects

REQUIRES
macOS 11

YOU WILL LEARN
How to adjust bokeh blur, grade video clips, and remove unwanted objects

IT WILL TAKE
15 minutes

BIG SUR HAS has enabled the macOS Photos app to catch up with the iOS version, especially in the area of video editing. You can now adjust a clip to fix problems with color and tone directly in the macOS version instead of having to export clips to iMovie for grading purposes.

Big Sur's Photos app also sees an improvement to the Retouch tool. In older versions of Photos, the Retouch tool could struggle to replace unwanted objects with suitable pixels. Retouched areas could look blurry or contain unsuitable pixels. The enhanced Retouch tool benefits from machine learning to help it replace unwanted objects with appropriate adjacent pixels. This helps you remove objects quickly, without having to manually define the sampled area.

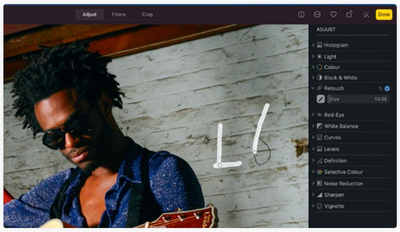
Photos in Big Sur is now more up to speed with other iOS Photos editing tools too, giving you the ability to adjust the depth of blur in a Portrait-mode shot and easily apply different lighting effects.

GEORGE CAIRNS

HOW TO Retouch images more effectively

1 Unwanted details

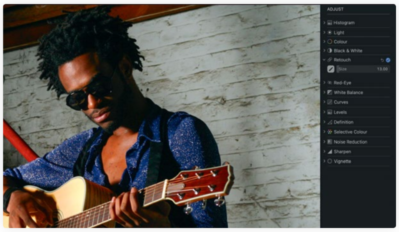
This shot features some distracting graffiti. The challenge is to remove the lettering while preserving the underlying brick pattern. We also want to remove the logo on the guitar to make the image sellable as stock.



Adjust
Filters
Crop
Done
ADJUST
Histogram
Light
Colour
Black & White
Retouch
Size
Red-Eye
White Balance
Curves
Levels
Definition
Selective Colour
Noise Reduction
Sharpen
Vignette

2 Let us spray

Zoom in to work on the problem area and open the Retouch tool. Set the tip's size so it's just large enough to cover the graffiti strokes. Spray over each stroke. The tool will replace the graffiti with brickwork.



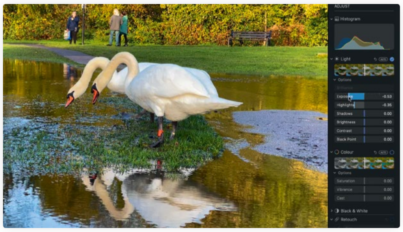
ADJUST
Histogram
Light
Colour
Black & White
Retouch
Size
Red-Eye
White Balance
Curves
Levels
Definition
Selective Colour
Noise Reduction
Sharpen
Vignette

3 Finishing touch

Spray the Retouch tool over the guitar's logo. It should replace the text with suitable wood patterns. You may need to spray the area a couple of times to mop up any remaining traces of unwanted objects.

Image rights: Apple.

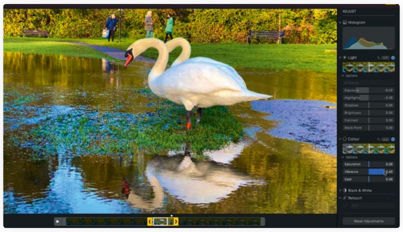
HOW TO Adjust a video clip's properties



1

Tweak tone

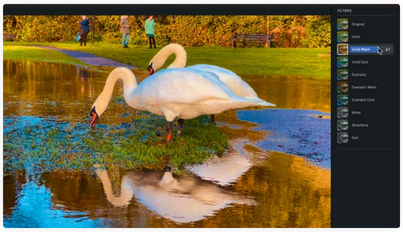
Double-click on a clip and click Edit. Use the Trim handles to shorten it. In our example, the swan's highlights are over-exposed. By dragging the Exposure and Highlights sliders to the left, we can reveal missing detail.



2

Boost vibrance

Big Sur's Photos app now has a Vibrance slider that works on clips and stills alike. Vibrance selectively boosts the saturation of landscape colors, such as blues and greens, without over-saturating skin tones.

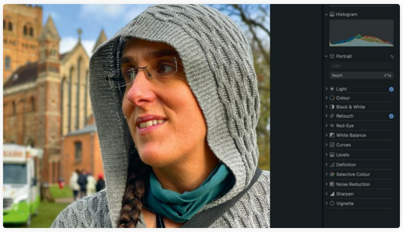


3

Fab filters

As with the iOS version of Photos, the Big Sur version enables you to quickly grade your footage with a one-click filter. You can then drag an adjacent slider to reduce the strength of the filter for a more subtle look.

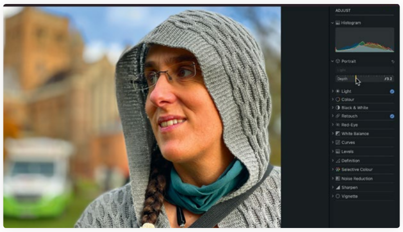
HOW TO Adjust a portrait's blur



1

Portrait mode

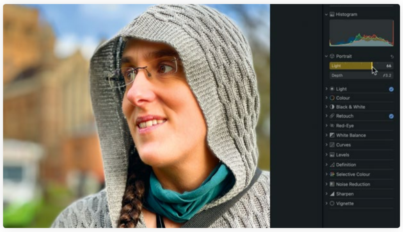
Open an image snapped using an iPhone's Portrait mode. Click the Edit button. Toggle open the new Portrait option in the Adjust panel. In this shot, the background truck is visible. We can make it less distracting.



2

Aperture value

The current depth setting is f/16. For a shallower depth of field drag the Depth slider left to a smaller aperture value such as f3.2. This creates a blurrier, more abstract background that helps us focus on the subject.



3

Adjust lighting

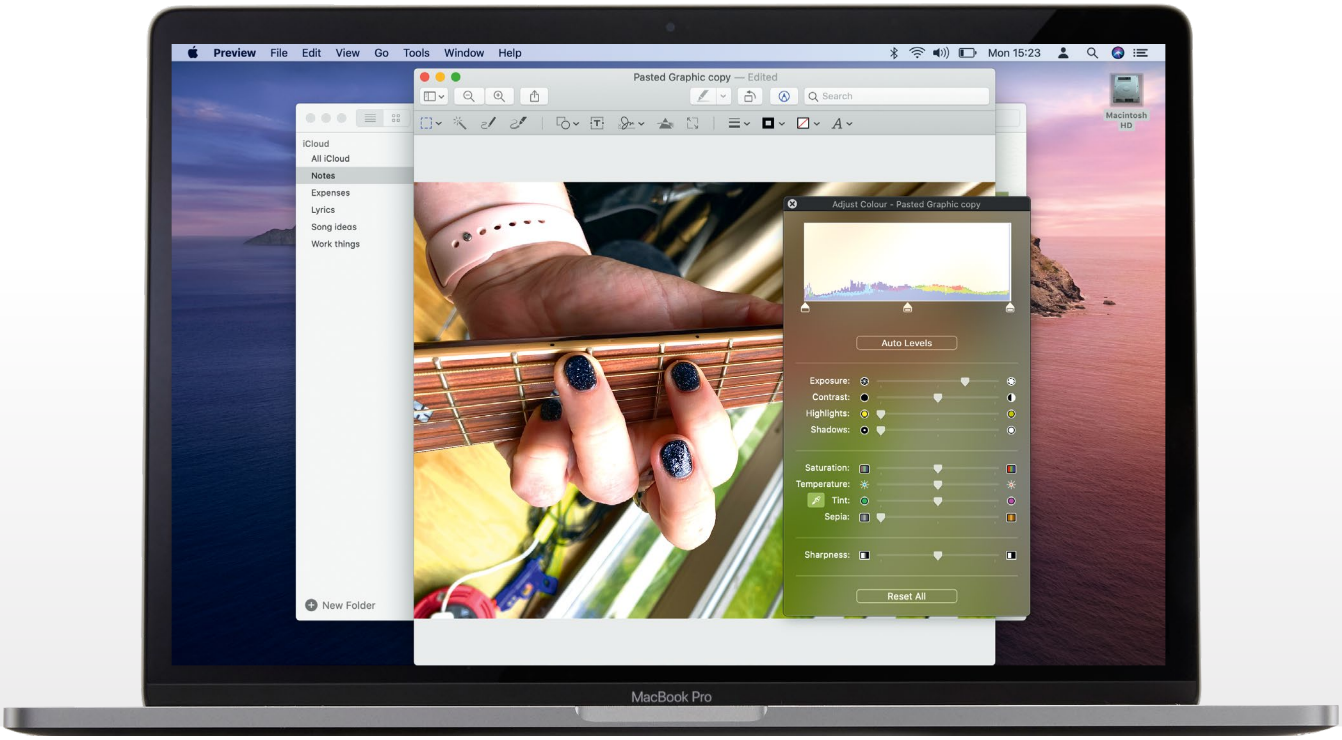
Click on the Studio Light icon at the bottom of the window. This mimics the effect of a soft wash of studio flash light that flatters the subject's skin. Increase the value of the Light slider for a smoother skin complexion.

> CREATE A BEAUTIFUL BOKEH EFFECT

Change aperture value to blur your background

DSLR users can manually open or close their camera's iris (or aperture) to let in more or less light. A narrow aperture value such as f/22 causes both foreground and background details to look sharp. A wider aperture value such as f/2.0 makes the background become blurred. This blur (or bokeh) helps reduce background distractions. The iPhone Camera app's Portrait mode simulates this bokeh effect using software, so you can use the Photos app to manually adjust the strength. The iPhone 12 Pro Max's aperture can open to a very wide f/1.4.

Image rights: Apple.


Preview File Edit View Go Tools Window Help
Mon 15:23
Pasted Graphic copy — Edited
Search
iCloud
All iCloud
Notes
Expenses
Lyrics
Song ideas
Work things
New Folder
Adjust Colour - Pasted Graphic copy
Auto Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Saturation:
Temperature:
Tint:
Sepia:
Sharpness:
Reset All
Macintosh HD
MacBook Pro

Master Continuity Camera

Use your iPhone or iPad to scan documents to Notes on your Mac

REQUIRES
You'll need iOS 12 or later, macOS 10.14 or later

YOU WILL LEARN
How to use iPhone or iPad as inputs for Notes on your Mac

IT WILL TAKE
10 minutes

ONE OF OUR favorite Apple innovations is Continuity, which makes all your Apple devices work together. Sidecar uses your iPad as a second display; Handoff enables you to start work on one device and continue on another; Universal Clipboard can copy from one device and paste to another; and Sketch enables you to draw on your touchscreen device and save it on your Mac.

a brief history of
SKATEBOARDS
1950s
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s - now

With Continuity Sketch, you can draw on iPhone or iPad and get it to appear in your note to see it on your Mac.

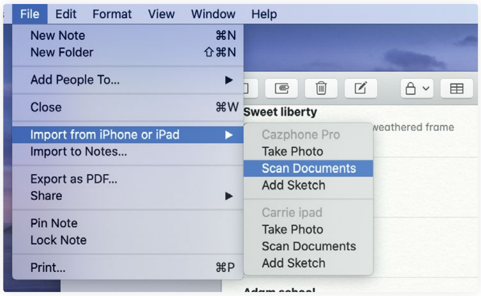
Of all the Continuity features, we think Continuity Camera is one of the most useful. It enables you to use your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch as a camera and scanner for your Mac. It's a fast and effective way of getting documents into your desktop or laptop Mac and, as we'll discover in this tutorial, it also enables you to do useful things with the results such as add Markup to photos or export scanned documents as PDFs.

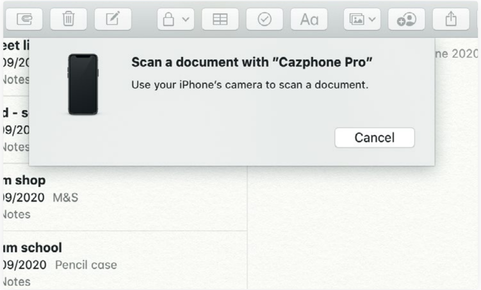
In order to use Continuity Camera, you'll need an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch running iOS 12 or later, and a compatible Mac running macOS Mojave or later. So that's MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini or iMac from 2012 onwards, any iMac Pro, a Mac Pro from 2013 onwards, or a MacBook from 2015 or later.

In the tutorial opposite, we're going to show you how Continuity Camera works in Notes, but you can also use it in many other apps too. The process is exactly the same as it is for Notes. **CARRIE MARSHALL**

Image rights: Apple.

HOW TO Use Continuity Camera in Notes


File
Edit
Format
View
Window
Help
New Note ⌘N
New Folder ⇧⌘N
Add People To…
Close ⌘W
Import from iPhone or iPad
Import to Notes…
Export as PDF…
Share
Pin Note
Lock Note
Print… ⌘P
Sweet liberty
weathered frame
Cazphone Pro
Take Photo
Scan Documents
Add Sketch
Carrie ipad
Take Photo
Scan Documents
Add Sketch



Scan a document with "Cazphone Pro"

Use your iPhone's camera to scan a document.

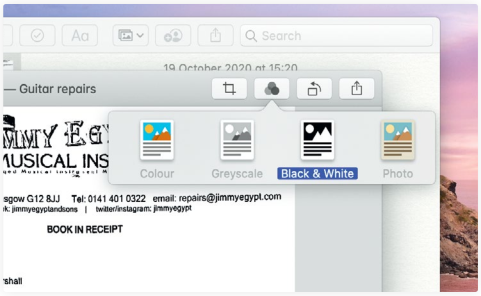
Cancel
n shop
M&S
m school
Pencil case

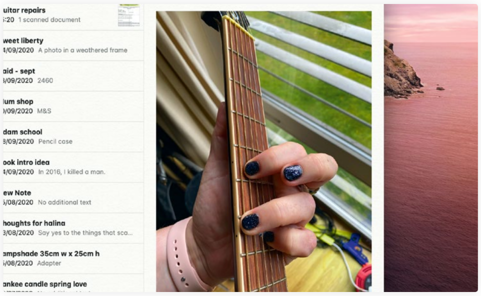
1 Pick a note

In Notes, create a new note or open an existing one. Place the cursor where you'd like to insert your image, then go to File > Insert from iPhone or iPad. You should now see the options Take Photo and Scan Documents.

2 Choose your document

Take Photo does what you'd expect: it takes a photo. For documents, though, Scan Documents is a better option. With both, you'll see a message telling you to use your chosen device to take a photo or scan.


Search
19 October 2020 at 15:20
Guitar repairs
Colour
Greyscale
Black & White
Photo
BOOK IN RECEIPT

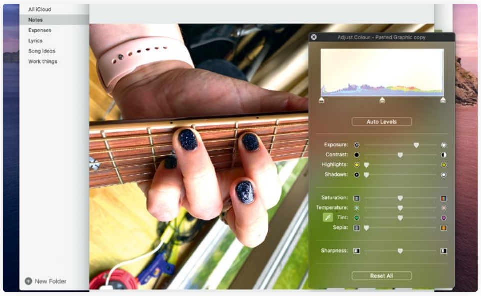

Guitar repairs
1 scanned document
Sweet liberty
A photo in a weathered frame
Adam school
Pencil case
New Note
No additional text
Adapter

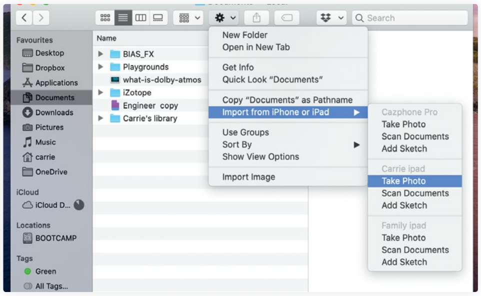
3 Scan a document

Scans and photos then appear in the note. If you double-click on them, they'll open in a separate window. For scans, you'll see a Filter icon that you can use to switch between color, photo, grayscale, and B&W.

4 Take a photo

It's exactly the same procedure for inserting photos. If you'd rather not see photos or scans at large sizes, Ctrl-click and you can choose View As Small Images. This shows thumbnails instead of normal-sized pictures.


All iCloud
Notes
Expenses
Lyrics
Song ideas
Work things
New Folder
Adjust Colour - Pasted Graphic copy
Auto Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Saturation:
Temperature:
Tint:
Sepia:
Sharpness:
Reset All

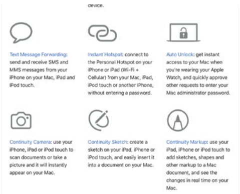

Search
Favourites
Desktop
Dropbox
Applications
Documents
Downloads
Pictures
Music
carrie
OneDrive
iCloud
iCloud D…
Locations
BOOTCAMP
Tags
Green
All Tags…
Name
BIAS_FX
Playgrounds
what-is-dolby-atmos
iZotope
Engineer copy
Carrie's library
New Folder
Open in New Tab
Get Info
Quick Look "Documents"
Copy "Documents" as Pathname
Import from iPhone or iPad
Use Groups
Sort By
Show View Options
Import Image
Cazphone Pro
Take Photo
Scan Documents
Add Sketch
Carrie ipad
Take Photo
Scan Documents
Add Sketch
Family ipad
Take Photo
Scan Documents
Add Sketch

5 Adjust the image

With photos, you get more options to adjust the image than the filters for scanned docs. Double-click and you can bring up the Markdown toolbar, which enables you to draw, add text, digitally sign, and more.

6 Use other apps

Continuity Camera works with other apps. Things are slightly different in Finder, though – to scan an image or document to a folder, you'll need to use the Action button (gear icon) in the Finder toolbar.



device.

Text Message Forwarding: send and receive SMS and MMS messages from your iPhone on your Mac, iPad and iPod touch.

Instant Hotspot: connect to the Personal Hotspot on your iPhone or iPad (Wi-Fi + Cellular) from your Mac, iPad, iPod touch or another iPhone, without entering a password.

Auto Unlock: get instant access to your Mac when you're wearing your Apple Watch, and quickly approve other requests to enter your Mac administrator password.

Continuity Camera: use your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch to scan documents or take a picture and it will instantly appear on your Mac.

Continuity Sketch: create a sketch on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch, and easily insert it into a document on your Mac.

Continuity Markup: use your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch to add sketches, shapes and other markup to a Mac document, and see the changes in real time on your Mac.

JARGON BUSTER

Continuity is Apple's term for technology that does things on one device and sends the results to another, such as scanning from iPhone to Mac.

GENIUS TIP

Continuity problems? Blame Bluetooth. Hold Shift+Opt, click Bluetooth in the menu bar and then select Debug. Remove all devices and reset.

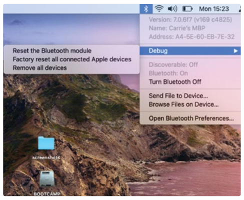

Mon 15:23
Version: 7.0.87
Name: Carrie's MBP
Reset the Bluetooth module
Factory reset all connected Apple devices
Remove all devices
Debug
Discoverable: Off
Bluetooth: On
Turn Bluetooth Off
Send File to Device…
Browse Files on Device…
Open Bluetooth Preferences…
BOOTCAMP

Image rights: Apple.

Customize Control Center

How to add features to Control Center in Big Sur

REQUIRES
macOS 11

YOU WILL LEARN
How to customize Control Center in Big Sur

IT WILL TAKE
15 minutes

THE MENU BAR at the top of the Mac screen has been a fixture of the macOS for decades. It provides a convenient set of tools in the top-right corner of the screen, allowing you to quickly access and control key features on your Mac such as Wi-Fi settings, Bluetooth, and sound.

But, over the years, that little corner of the menu bar has become rather cluttered, so Big Sur's introduction of the new Control Center — borrowed, of course, from the iPhone and iPad — represents one of the biggest changes to the Mac's interface in years. By default, there's a fixed set of nine specific features that will always be visible in Control Center. This means you can now tidy up the menu bar by moving those particular features from there, and keep them inside the Control Center instead. It's worth noting that those nine features can't be removed, but you can add more features to Control Center such as Fast User Switching, Battery, and Accessibility controls, making it quicker and easier to get your Mac set up the way you like it. **CARRIE MARSHALL**

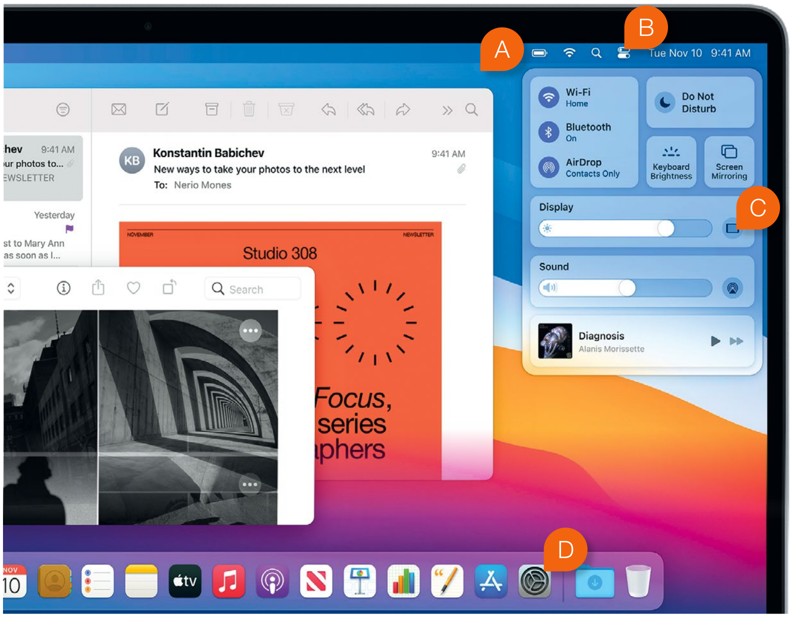
QUICK LOOK Control Center in macOS 11

A

KEEP VISIBLE
You can drag and drop items from the Control Center into the menu bar so that they're always visible.

B

CLICK CONTROL
As this is not a touchscreen, you need to click this icon in the menu bar to open Control Center.


A
B
C
D
Tue Nov 10 9:41 AM
Wi-Fi
Home
Bluetooth
On
AirDrop
Contacts Only
Do Not Disturb
Keyboard Brightness
Screen Mirroring
Display
Sound
Diagnosis
Alanis Morissette
Studio 308
Focus,
series
phers
Search

Konstantin Babichev 9:41 AM
New ways to take your photos to the next level
To: Nerio Mones

C

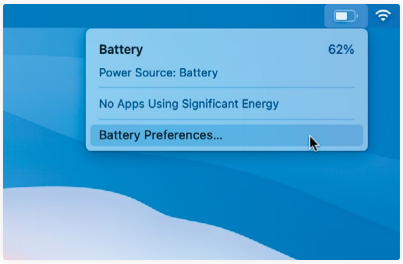
POWER OF NINE
By default, the Control Center contains a group of nine features; these can't be removed but you can add more.

D

PREFERENCES
The old Dock panel in System Prefs has been updated, with new features for modifying Control Center.

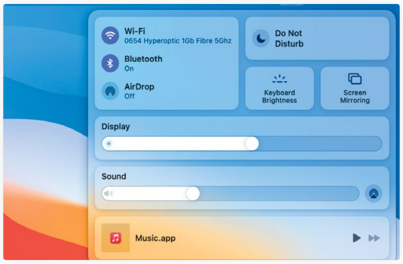
Image rights: Apple.

HOW TO Make the most of Control Center


Battery
62%
Power Source: Battery
No Apps Using Significant Energy
Battery Preferences...

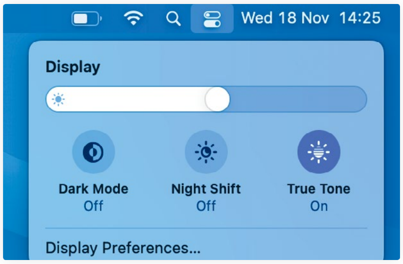
1 Menu bar

The menu bar in Big Sur still works the way it always has, with icons representing features such as battery power and Wi-Fi. Click on any icon for a pull-down menu with additional settings for that particular feature.


Wi-Fi
0654 Hyperoptic 1Gb Fibre 5Ghz
Bluetooth
On
AirDrop
Off
Do Not Disturb
Keyboard Brightness
Screen Mirroring
Display
Sound
Music.app

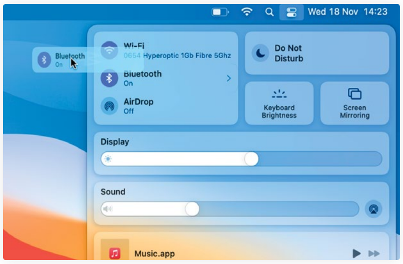
2 Control Center

There is one new icon in the menu bar, though, which looks like a little set of switches. Click on this icon and you'll see the new iOS-style Control Center, which contains a much larger group of controls and features.


Wed 18 Nov 14:25
Display
Dark Mode
Off
Night Shift
Off
True Tone
On
Display Preferences...

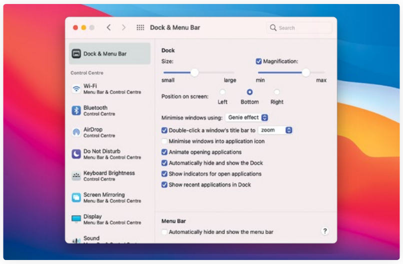
3 Changing Settings

You can click on any of these features to see more detailed settings. Clicking on Display will show options, such as Dark Mode and Night Shift, and there will also be an option to open System Preferences for that feature.


Wed 18 Nov 14:23
Bluetooth
On
Wi-Fi
0654 Hyperoptic 1Gb Fibre 5Ghz
Bluetooth
On
AirDrop
Off
Do Not Disturb
Keyboard Brightness
Screen Mirroring
Display
Sound
Music.app

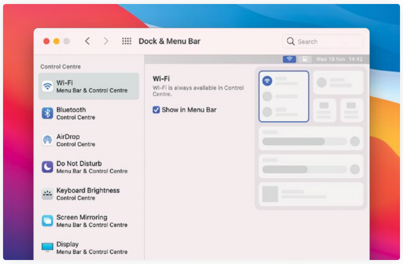
4 Drag and drop

You can also use Control Center to quickly customize the menu bar. Click and hold on any feature in Control Center and you can then drag and drop that feature up into the menu bar so it remains visible all the time.


Dock & Menu Bar
Dock
Menu Bar

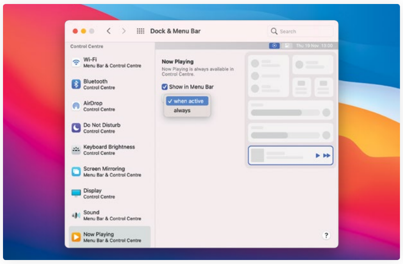
5 System Preferences

Now let's dig a little deeper. If you open System Preferences and select Dock & Menu Bar, you'll see a scrolling list on the left-hand side of this panel with additional features that can be used to modify Control Center.


Dock & Menu Bar
Control Centre
Wi-Fi
Bluetooth
AirDrop
Do Not Disturb
Keyboard Brightness
Screen Mirroring
Display
Show in Menu Bar

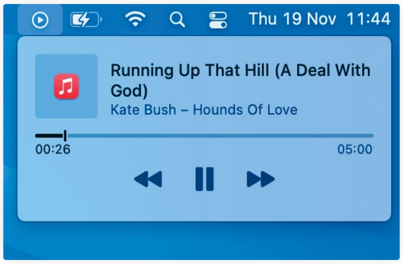
6 Always on

Scroll down that list a little, and the first thing you'll see is the set of nine features that are fixed and will always appear in Control Center. The list starts with Wi-Fi and ends with the Now Playing media controls.


Dock & Menu Bar
Now Playing
Show in Menu Bar
when active
always

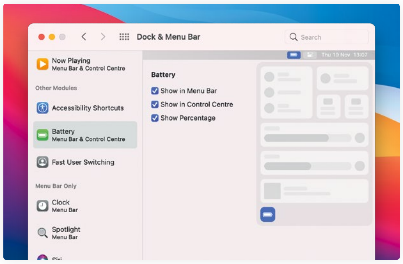
7 Now Playing

These features always appear in Control Center, but you can also set them to appear in the menu bar at specific times. Click on Now Playing in the list. Click Show In Menu Bar and select "when active."


Thu 19 Nov 11:44
Running Up That Hill (A Deal With God)
Kate Bush – Hounds Of Love
00:26
05:00

8 Now not playing

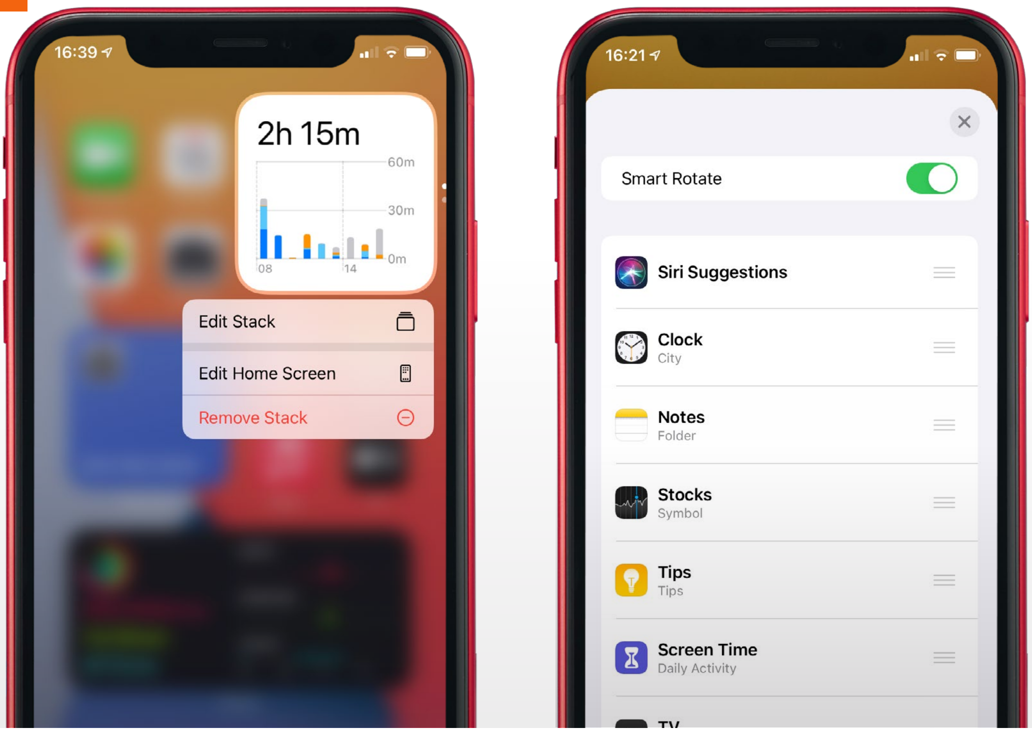
The Now Playing icon will now appear in the menu bar – but only when you're playing music or video, such as this Kate Bush album in the Music app. When you quit the Music app, the Now Playing icon will disappear again.


Dock & Menu Bar
Now Playing
Other Modules
Accessibility Shortcuts
Battery
Fast User Switching
Menu Bar Only
Clock
Spotlight
Battery
Show in Menu Bar
Show in Control Centre
Show Percentage

9 Extra options

Scroll a little further down that list of features and you'll see a number of other useful options that you can add to either the Control Center or the menu bar, including Fast User Switching, Battery, and Siri.

Image rights: Apple.


16:39
2h 15m
60m
30m
0m
08
14
Edit Stack
Edit Home Screen
Remove Stack
16:21
Smart Rotate
Siri Suggestions
Clock
City
Notes
Folder
Stocks
Symbol
Tips
Tips
Screen Time
Daily Activity
TV

Smart Stacks in iOS 14

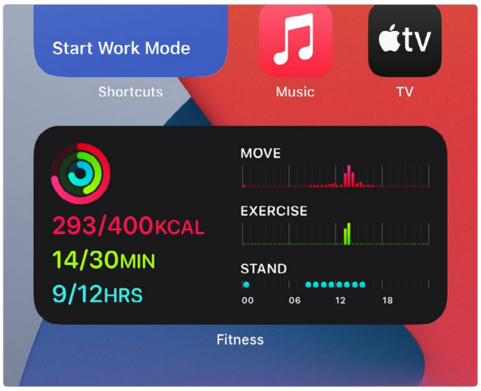
Spruce up your Home screen with this clever little widget

REQUIRES
iOS 14

YOU WILL LEARN
How to build and edit your own Smart Stacks in iOS 14

IT WILL TAKE
5 minutes

APPLE HAS BROUGHT a long-overdue revamp to its mobile devices in the form of iOS 14. For the first time, you no longer have to put up with overflowing apps and countless sheets to flick through just to find the app you want — everything can be stored in the App Library instead. And if you fancy having the latest weather and news stories greet you when you unlock your phone, now you can thanks to the introduction of widgets.


Start Work Mode
Shortcuts
Music
tv
TV
MOVE
EXERCISE
STAND
293/400KCAL
14/30MIN
9/12HRS
00
06
12
18
Fitness

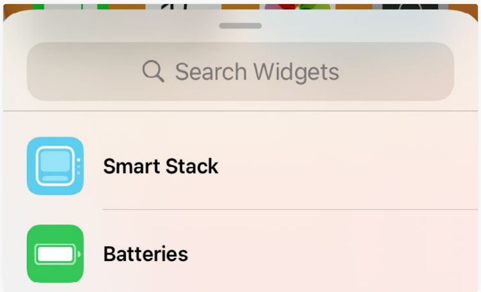
Smart Stacks come in a variety of sizes, and you can add or remove widgets as you please.

But you don't have to stop with plain old widgets — Apple has added more depth in the form of Smart Stacks. These work a bit like widget folders, with each Smart Stack containing multiple widgets that you can scroll through until you find the one you need. Even better, your device can present the right widgets at the right time at the top of a Smart Stack, based on your usage habits throughout the day. It's a great way to save space on your Home screen without losing functionality.

In this tutorial, we will guide you through the process of creating, editing, and managing Smart Stacks in iOS 14. Apple has made the whole process very easy to learn, but there is plenty of depth and extra customization available should you wish to go beyond the basics. We will cover all that and more here, helping you master this clever new feature in Apple's latest version of iOS. **ALEX BLAKE**

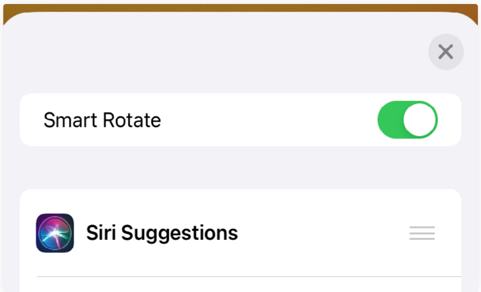
Image rights: Apple.

HOW TO Create and edit Smart Stacks


Search Widgets
Smart Stack
Batteries

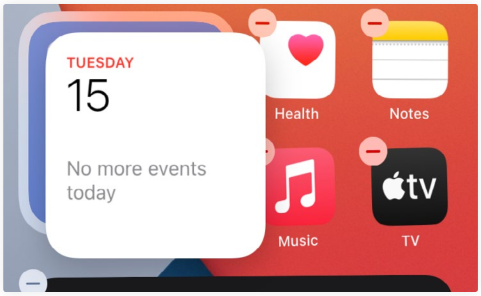
1 Add a pre-made Smart Stack

Tap and hold a blank area of the Home screen, tap the "+" button (top-left corner), then scroll down and tap Smart Stack. Choose one of the three available sizes, then tap Add Widget.


Smart Rotate
Siri Suggestions

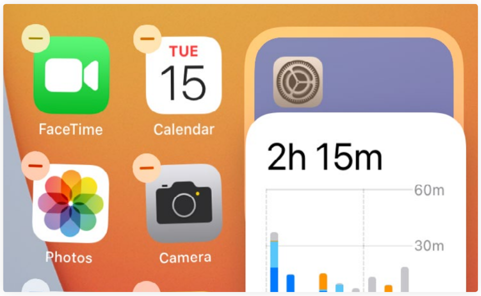
2 Reorder the widgets

If you want to edit a Smart Stack, tap and hold it until a contextual menu appears, then tap Edit Stack. You can use the handles on the right-hand side to rearrange widgets to your liking. When you're done, tap the cross.


TUESDAY
15
No more events today
Health
Notes
Music
tv
TV

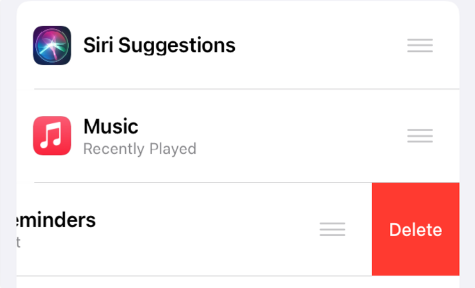
3 Add a widget to a stack

To add another widget to a Smart Stack, open the widgets menu from step 1, then drag and drop a new widget over an existing stack. All widgets must be the same size – you can't combine large and small widgets, for example.


FaceTime
TUE
15
Calendar
2h 15m
60m
30m
Photos
Camera

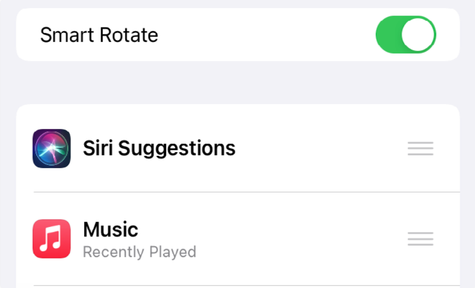
4 Combine existing widgets

You can also create a Smart Stack from two static widgets rather than from the pre-made Smart Stack widget. Just enter jiggle mode, then drag one over the other in the same way as you would create an app folder.


Siri Suggestions
Music
Recently Played
eminders
Delete

5 Trim down the stack

To remove a widget from a stack, tap and hold the widget and tap Edit Stack, then swipe from right to left. A short swipe brings up the Delete button; a long swipe removes the widget without waiting for confirmation.


Smart Rotate
Siri Suggestions
Music
Recently Played

6 Smart Rotate

At the top of the Edit Stack menu is a toggle for Smart Rotate. This orders widgets based on your usage habits. For instance, if you check the weather early in the day, it will appear at the top of the stack in the morning.

Done
TUE
15
FaceTime
Calendar
2h 15m
Photos
Camera
Screen Time

JARGON BUSTER

Jiggle mode is the state your iOS device enters when you tap and hold an app or blank area of screen. Apps jiggle and can be moved or deleted.

GENIUS TIP

Like other widgets, Smart Stacks can be dragged to the Today View. That lets you create a daily control center without clogging up the Home screen.

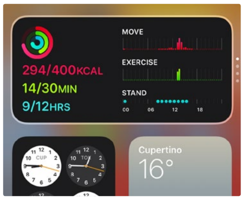
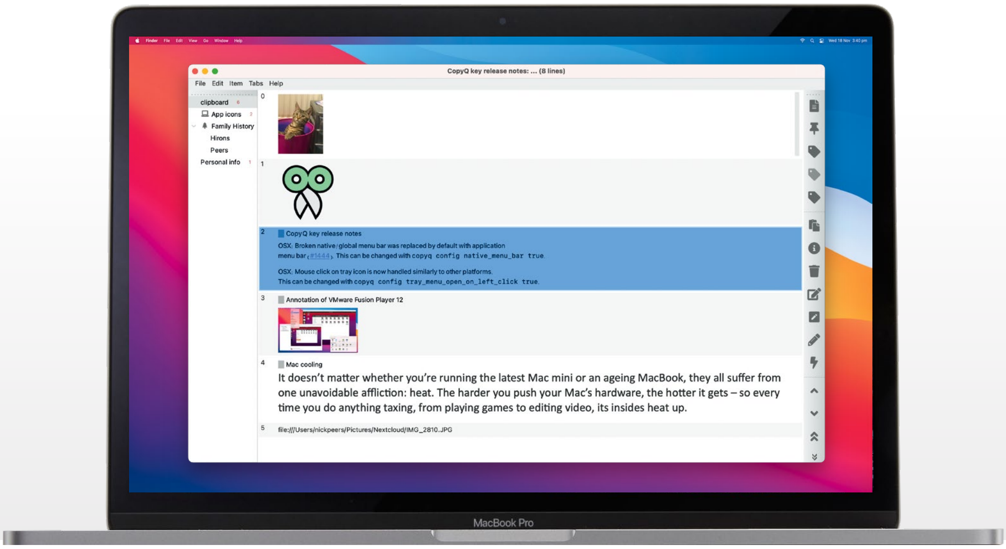

MOVE
EXERCISE
STAND
294/400KCAL
14/30MIN
9/12HRS
Cupertino
16°

Image rights: Apple.



CopyQ key release notes: ... (8 lines)

2 CopyQ key release notes
OSX: Broken native/global menu bar was replaced by default with application menu bar (#1444). This can be changed with `copyq config native_menu_bar true`.
OSX: Mouse click on tray icon is now handled similarly to other platforms. This can be changed with `copyq config tray_menu_open_on_left_click true`.

3 Annotation of VMware Fusion Player 12

4 Mac cooling
It doesn't matter whether you're running the latest Mac mini or an ageing MacBook, they all suffer from one unavoidable affliction: heat. The harder you push your Mac's hardware, the hotter it gets – so every time you do anything taxing, from playing games to editing video, its insides heat up.

5 file:///Users/nickpeers/Pictures/Nextcloud/IMG_2810.JPG

One clipboard to rule them all

Discover how to store multiple items on your Mac's clipboard with CopyQ

REQUIRES
OS X 10.9 or later, CopyQ

YOU WILL LEARN
Create, manage, and use an easily accessible clipboard library

IT WILL TAKE
15 minutes

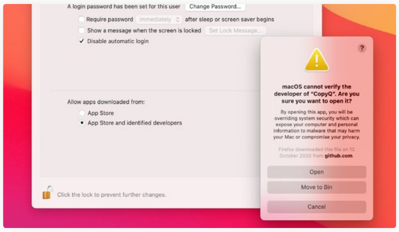
THE CLIPBOARD IS one of computing's oldest time-saving tools, but it has never evolved to keep up with the times. The main shortcoming is that you can only store one item on the clipboard at any time.

CopyQ is a free, open source app that bypasses this restriction by enabling you to build a library of frequently used clips that you can then place in the clipboard on-demand, or place your favorite clips at your fingertips via a universally accessible menu.

The guides opposite will show you how to get up and running with CopyQ. As your clip library grows, you'll be able to explore its many features to help you find them quickly: add tags, pin favorite clips, and make good use of the search tool (press Cmd+G) to search the currently selected tab using keywords based on your clip's content as well as any tags that you have applied to it.

We also recommend frequently backing up your clip library. To do this simply go to File > Export, then select All before clicking OK. **NICK PEERS**

HOW TO Get started with CopyQ

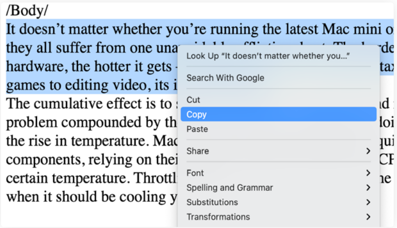


A login password has been set for this user
☐ Require password immediately after sleep or screen saver begins
☐ Show a message when the screen is locked
☑ Disable automatic login

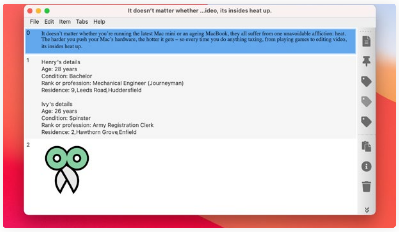
Allow apps downloaded from:
○ App Store
● App Store and identified developers

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

macOS cannot verify the developer of "CopyQ". Are you sure you want to open it?
By opening this app, you will be overriding system security which can expose your computer and personal information to malware that may harm your Mac or compromise your privacy.
Firefox downloaded this file on 12 October 2020 from github.com.



/Body/
It doesn't matter whether you're running the latest Mac mini o
they all suffer from one una
hardware, the hotter it gets
games to editing video, its i
The cumulative effect is to
problem compounded by th
the rise in temperature. Mac
components, relying on thei
certain temperature. Throttl
when it should be cooling y



It doesn't matter whether ...ideo, its insides heat up.

0 It doesn't matter whether you're running the latest Mac mini or an ageing MacBook, they all suffer from one unavoidable affliction: heat. The harder you push your Mac's hardware, the hotter it gets – so every time you do anything taxing, from playing games to editing video, its insides heat up.

1 Henry's details
Age: 28 years
Condition: Bachelor
Rank or profession: Mechanical Engineer (Journeyman)
Residence: 9,Leeds Road,Huddersfield

Ivy's details
Age: 26 years
Condition: Spinster
Rank or profession: Army Registration Clerk
Residence: 2,Hawthorn Grove,Enfield

2

1 First launch

Open System Prefs > Security & Privacy > General. Now open CopyQ via Applications – when it tells you it can't be opened, click Cancel. Switch back to System Prefs, and click Open Anyway followed by Open.

2 Capture clipboard items

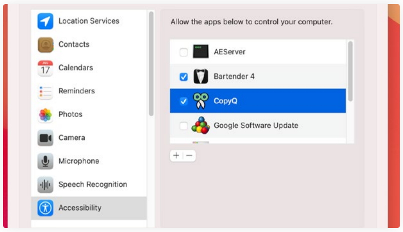
CopyQ appears in the menu bar when running. The clipboard functions as before, with Cmd+V pasting the most recent item. Any items you copy to the clipboard are added to CopyQ's library.

3 View clips

Click the CopyQ menu bar icon to open the program's window listing all your clips. To prevent it vanishing when you select another app or window, choose File > Prefs > General and deselect Close When Unfocused.

Image rights: Lukas Holecek.

HOW TO Paste and edit clips

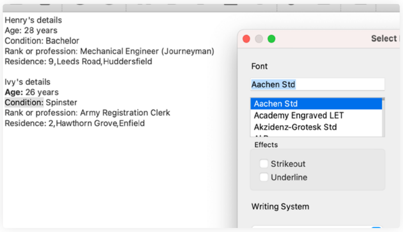

Location Services
Contacts
Calendars
Reminders
Photos
Camera
Microphone
Speech Recognition
Accessibility
+ −

Allow the apps below to control your computer.

☐ AEServer
☑ Bartender 4
☑ CopyQ
☐ Google Software Update

1 Paste from CopyQ

To copy a specific item to the clipboard, double-click it or select it, and press Return. The first time you do this, you will be asked to grant CopyQ control of Accessibility features. Once done, paste it as normal with Cmd+V.



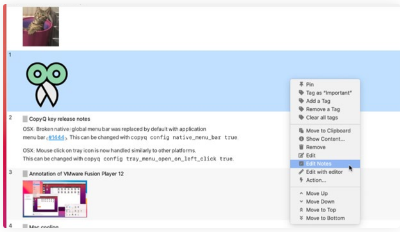
Henry's details
Age: 28 years
Condition: Bachelor
Rank or profession: Mechanical Engineer (Journeyman)
Residence: 9,Leeds Road,Huddersfield

Ivy's details
Age: 26 years
Condition: Spinster
Rank or profession: Army Registration Clerk
Residence: 2,Hawthorn Grove,Enfield

Select
Font
Aachen Std
Aachen Std
Academy Engraved LET
Akzidenz-Grotesk Std
Effects
☐ Strikeout
☐ Underline
Writing System

2 Edit clips

Ctrl-click a clip containing text and choose Edit to make changes using CopyQ's text editor. You can also apply some simple formatting to the clip. Click the disk button on the far left to save your changes.



1

2 CopyQ key release notes

OSX: Broken native/global menu bar was replaced by default with application menu bar (#1444). This can be changed with `copyq config native_menu_bar true`.

OSX: Mouse click on tray icon is now handled similarly to other platforms. This can be changed with `copyq config tray_menu_open_on_left_click true`.

3 Annotation of VMware Fusion Player 12

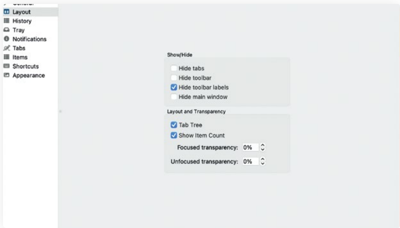
4 Mac cooling

Pin
Tag as "Important"
Add a Tag
Remove a Tag
Clear all tags
Move to Clipboard
Show Content...
Remove
Edit
Edit Notes
Edit with editor
Action...
Move Up
Move Down
Move to Top
Move to Bottom

3 Add a label

Ctrl-click any clip – text, image, or otherwise – and choose Edit Notes to add a title or description to your clip. After clicking Save, the label will be displayed above the clip's content to help you identify it in future.

HOW TO Work with tabs

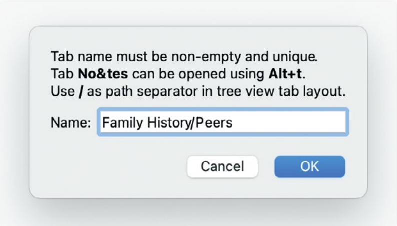

Layout
History
Tray
Notifications
Tabs
Items
Shortcuts
Appearance

Show/Hide
☐ Hide tabs
☐ Hide toolbar
☑ Hide toolbar labels
☐ Hide main window

Layout and Transparency
☑ Tab Tree
☑ Show Item Count
Focused transparency: 0%
Unfocused transparency: 0%

1 Set up tabs

CopyQ's default tab view isn't the best: choose File > Prefs > Layout to select Tab Tree and Show Item Count options. Click OK. Press Cmd+T to create your first tab. Replace "&clipboard" with its name. Click OK.

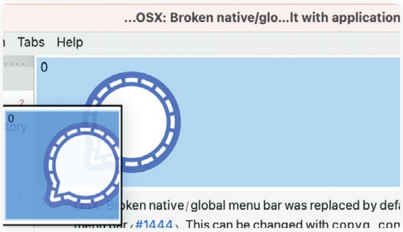


Tab name must be non-empty and unique.
Tab **No&tes** can be opened using **Alt+t**.
Use **/** as path separator in tree view tab layout.

Name: Family History/Peers

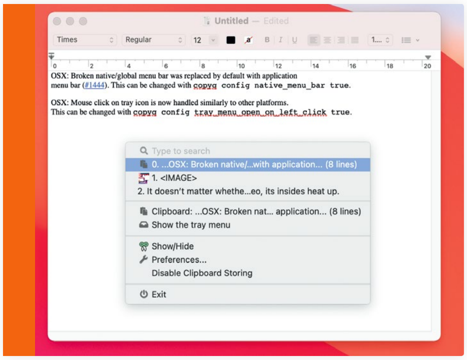
2 Create sub-tabs

Choose Tabs > New Tab to create as many tabs as you need. To nest a tab inside another tab, Ctrl-click on an existing tab and choose New Tab, then append "/Newtabname" to the existing name as shown above.


...OSX: Broken native/glo...lt with application
Tabs
Help
0
0

3 File your clips

Drag a clip from the original "clipboard" tab to another tab to move it – you'll see the item count number update. Select a tab to view and rearrange its contents. Choose Tab > Change Tab Icon to personalize further.


Untitled — Edited
Times
Regular
12

OSX: Broken native/global menu bar was replaced by default with application menu bar (#1444). This can be changed with `copyq config native_menu_bar true`.

OSX: Mouse click on tray icon is now handled similarly to other platforms. This can be changed with `copyq config tray_menu_open_on_left_click true`.

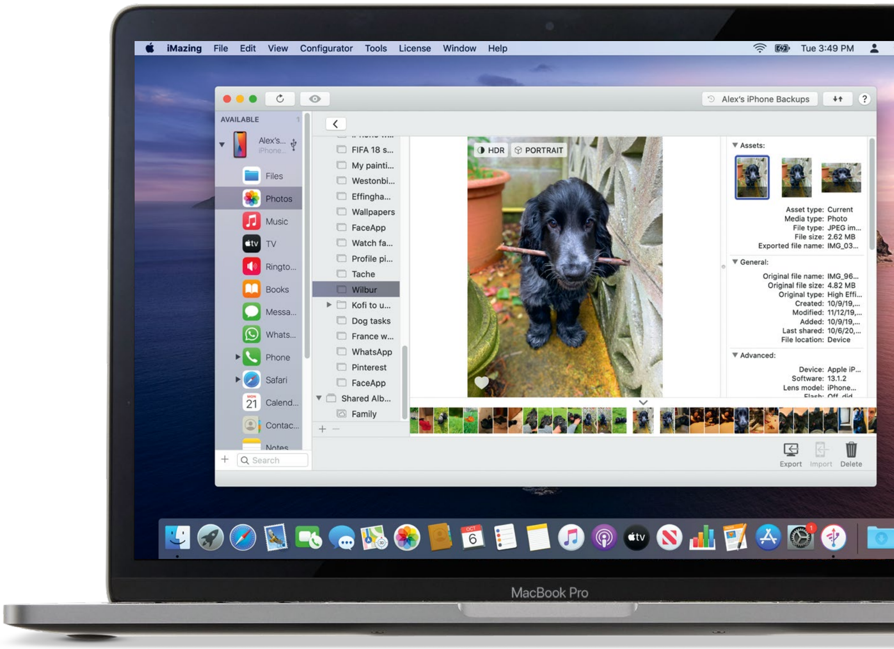
Type to search
0. ...OSX: Broken native/...with application... (8 lines)
1. <IMAGE>
2. It doesn't matter whethe...eo, its insides heat up.
Clipboard: ...OSX: Broken nat... application... (8 lines)
Show the tray menu
Show/Hide
Preferences...
Disable Clipboard Storing
Exit

> COPYQ'S QUICK PASTE TOOL

Place CopyQ's clipboard at your fingertips

CopyQ has a hidden feature that makes it easy to paste items and access other features via a universally accessible pop-up menu. First, select File > Commands/Global Shortcuts. Click Add, select "Show the tray menu," and click OK. Click the Global Shortcut to set a shortcut – such as Cmd+Ctrl+C. Click OK. Now press the key combo and the menu will pop up at the cursor point, complete with easy access to the last five items copied to the currently selected tab. Choose File > Preferences > Tray to configure the feature further.

Image rights: Lukas Holecek.


iMazing
File
Edit
View
Configurator
Tools
License
Window
Help
Tue 3:49 PM
Alex's iPhone Backups
AVAILABLE
Files
Photos
Music
TV
Books
Phone
Safari
Wilbur
Family
HDR
PORTRAIT
Assets:
General:
Advanced:
Export
Import
Delete
MacBook Pro

Organize your media with iMazing 2

Photos, music, and more brought under control

REQUIRES
iMazing 2, OS X 10.9 or later, iOS 4 or later

YOU WILL LEARN
How to add and manage media files on your device using iMazing 2

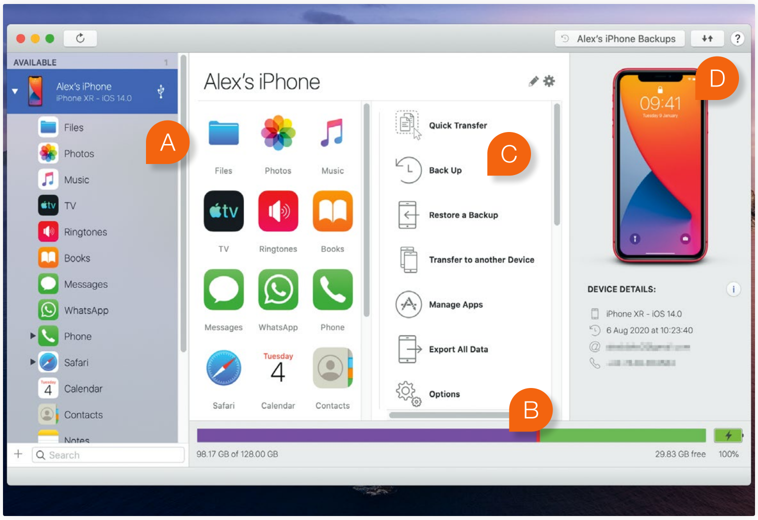
IT WILL TAKE
15 minutes

IT'S NO SECRET that Apple's own apps are hardly the most elegant way to manage your media on your devices. Even though iTunes is no longer with us, its legacy of clunky media management lives on in the form of Music, Podcasts, and TV. The Photos app is marginally better, but it's still far from perfect.

If you're looking for an alternative, iMazing should be top of your list (and a free trial is available). It makes transferring media between devices a real breeze, with a smooth workflow that's super-easy to navigate. And besides moving your files and keeping them organized, it's a great app for viewing files. The recent update to the photo browser puts EXIF data at your fingertips, lets you quickly swipe through an image carousel to find the file you want, plus much more.

In fact, iMazing allows you to simply drag and drop files from your Mac to your iOS device and vice versa. Whether you want to add new music to your iPhone or copy your latest photos onto your computer, the easiest way to do it is to just select what you want and drag it across. **ALEX BLAKE**

QUICK LOOK iMazing's home screen


Alex's iPhone Backups
AVAILABLE
Alex's iPhone
iPhone XR - iOS 14.0
Files
Photos
Music
TV
Ringtones
Books
Messages
WhatsApp
Phone
Safari
Calendar
Contacts
Notes
Search
Alex's iPhone
Quick Transfer
Back Up
Restore a Backup
Transfer to another Device
Manage Apps
Export All Data
Options
DEVICE DETAILS:
iPhone XR - iOS 14.0
6 Aug 2020 at 10:23:40
98.17 GB of 128.00 GB
29.83 GB free
100%
A
B
C
D

A
AVAILABLE APPS
Click an app in the sidebar to manage content, add and remove files, and create new folders and playlists.

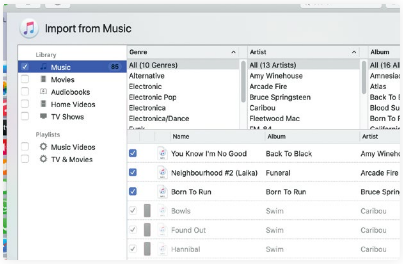
B
STORAGE SPACE
Your device's storage is shown here, divided into categories so you know if there's enough space to add files.

C
QUICK ACTIONS
iMazing's most common actions are located here. Use this pane to save having to delve into app categories.

D
OPERATIONS
When you perform an action, progress is shown by clicking the button with the up/down arrows.

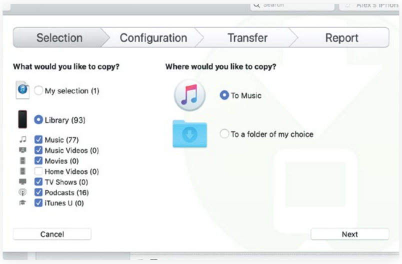
Image rights: DigiDNA SARL.

HOW TO Use drag and drop with iMazing


Import from Music
Library
Music
Movies
Audiobooks
Home Videos
TV Shows
Playlists
Music Videos
TV & Movies
Genre
Artist
Album
All (10 Genres)
All (13 Artists)
Name
You Know I'm No Good
Back To Black
Amy Winehouse
Neighbourhood #2 (Laika)
Funeral
Arcade Fire
Born To Run
Bruce Springsteen
Bowls
Swim
Caribou
Found Out
Hannibal

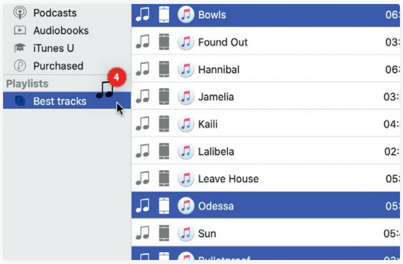
1 Import from Music

Click Music in the left-hand column, then click Import from Music. Choose individual songs (you can sort by genre, artist, and album), or pick Select All. Then click Copy to Device and wait for the transfer to finish.


Selection
Configuration
Transfer
Report
What would you like to copy?
Where would you like to copy?
My selection (1)
Library (93)
Music (77)
Music Videos (0)
Movies (0)
Home Videos (0)
TV Shows (0)
Podcasts (16)
iTunes U (0)
To Music
To a folder of my choice
Cancel
Next

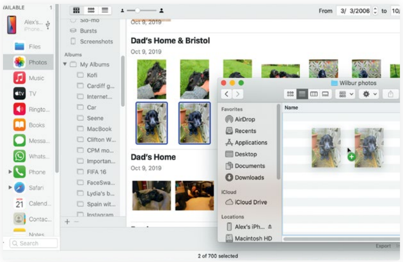
2 Export to your Mac

To move music to your Mac, click Export to Music. Choose whether to export just music or your entire device library, then click Next. Choose whether to include metadata (like play counts), click Next, then click Done.


Podcasts
Audiobooks
iTunes U
Purchased
Playlists
Best tracks
Bowls
Found Out
Hannibal
Jamelia
Kaili
Lalibela
Leave House
Odessa
Sun

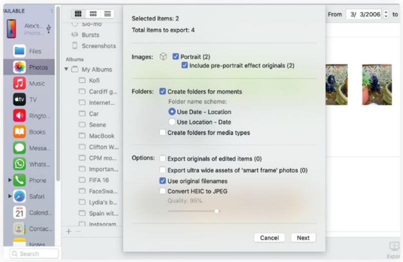
3 Add custom playlist

Create a new music playlist on your device by clicking the "+" button near the bottom-left of iMazing's Music menu. Give it a name, click OK, then drag and drop tracks from the Music tab over to the new playlist.


Dad's Home & Bristol
Oct 9, 2019
Dad's Home
Wilbur photos
AirDrop
Recents
Applications
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
iCloud Drive
Macintosh HD
2 of 700 selected

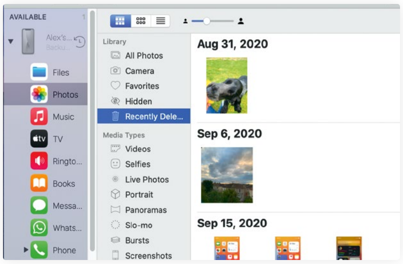
4 Drag and drop photos

Click Photos in iMazing, select photos on your iOS device, then drag them to your Mac's desktop. Or you can drag and drop photos from your Mac into iMazing to move to your iOS device.


Selected items: 2
Total items to export: 4
Images:
Portrait (2)
Include pre-portrait effect originals (2)
Folders:
Create folders for moments
Use Date - Location
Use Location - Date
Create folders for media types
Options:
Export originals of edited items (0)
Export ultra wide assets of 'smart frame' photos (0)
Use original filenames
Convert HEIC to JPEG
Cancel
Next

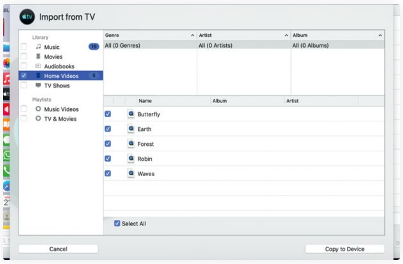
5 Additional options

For more options when moving photos to your Mac, click Export. Here, you can create folders for Moments, convert HEIC pics to JPG, keep original file names, and more. Click Next, select a destination, then click Choose.


AVAILABLE
Files
Photos
Music
TV
Ringto...
Books
Messa...
Whats...
Phone
Library
All Photos
Camera
Favorites
Hidden
Recently Dele...
Media Types
Videos
Selfies
Live Photos
Portrait
Panoramas
Slo-mo
Bursts
Screenshots
Aug 31, 2020
Sep 6, 2020
Sep 15, 2020

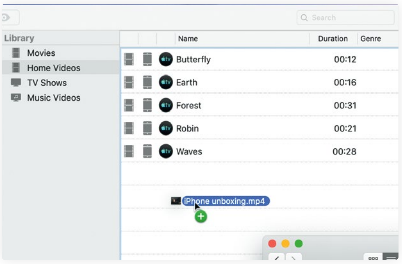
6 Recover deleted pics

Click the Backup button in the top toolbar and double-click a backup. Click Photos, then Recently Deleted in the left-hand toolbar. Select any photos you want to recover, then click Export to save them to your Mac.


Import from TV
Library
Music
Movies
Audiobooks
Home Videos
TV Shows
Playlists
Music Videos
TV & Movies
Genre
Artist
Album
All (0 Genres)
All (0 Artists)
All (0 Albums)
Butterfly
Earth
Forest
Robin
Waves
Select All
Cancel
Copy to Device

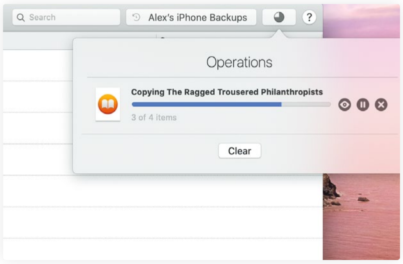
7 Add movies

Click TV, then click Import from TV. Choose a category, then click Select All or click the checkbox next to the videos you want to import. Then click Copy to Device and wait for the transfer to finish.


Library
Movies
Home Videos
TV Shows
Music Videos
Name
Duration
Genre
Butterfly 00:12
Earth 00:16
Forest 00:31
Robin 00:21
Waves 00:28
iPhone unboxing.mp4

8 Drag your movies

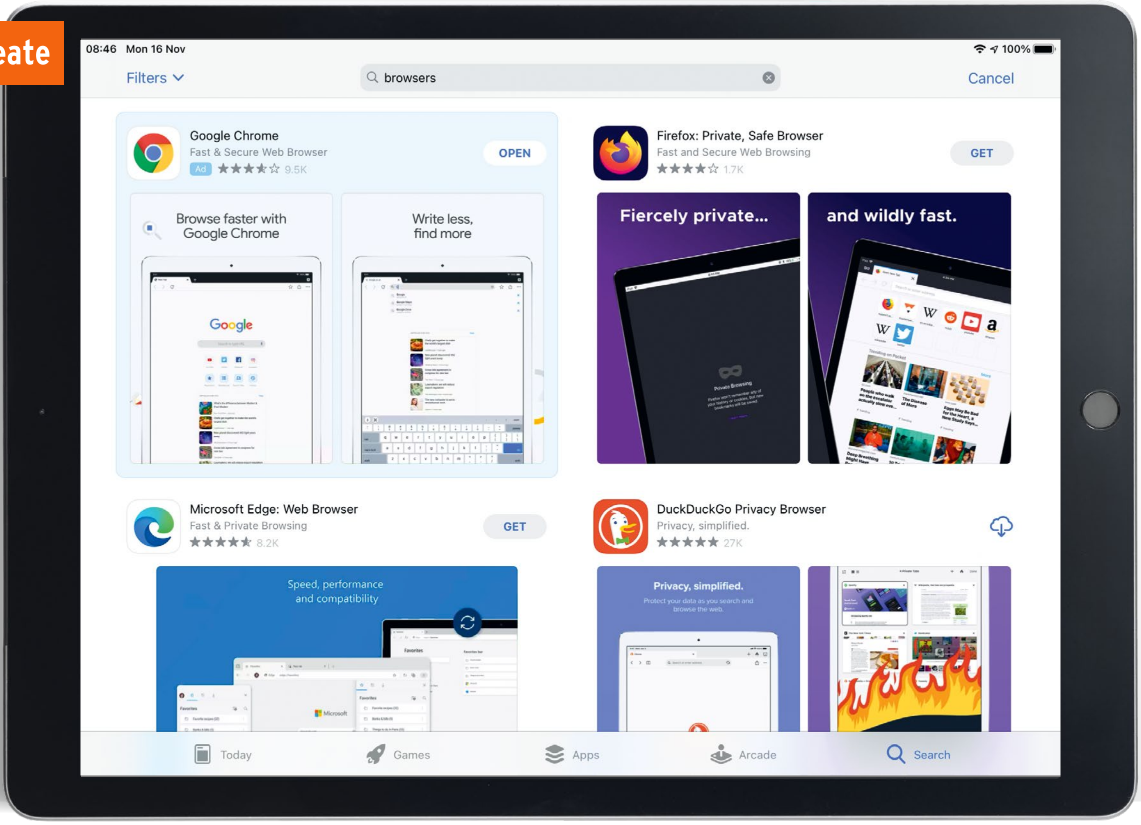
As with transferring photos, you can simply drag and drop movies onto the TV pane in iMazing and the app will automatically add them to your iOS device. That's ideal if you're adding movies from various locations.


Search
Alex's iPhone Backups
Operations
Copying The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists
3 of 4 items
Clear

9 Manage your books

Books are the last piece of the puzzle. As with all other media types, you can drag and drop or use the Import button to add them to your device. Once imported, double-click an item to open it in the Books app.

Image rights: DigiDNA SARL.


08:46 Mon 16 Nov
100%
Filters
browsers
Cancel
Google Chrome
Fast & Secure Web Browser
Ad 9.5K
OPEN
Browse faster with Google Chrome
Write less, find more
Firefox: Private, Safe Browser
Fast and Secure Web Browsing
1.7K
GET
Fiercely private...
and wildly fast.
Microsoft Edge: Web Browser
Fast & Private Browsing
8.2K
GET
Speed, performance and compatibility
DuckDuckGo Privacy Browser
Privacy, simplified.
27K
Privacy, simplified.
Protect your data as you search and browse the web.
Today
Games
Apps
Arcade
Search

Change the default apps

Want to swap Safari for Chrome? In iOS 14 and iPadOS 14, you can!

REQUIRES
iOS/iPadOS 14

YOU WILL LEARN
How to change the default apps on iPhone and iPad

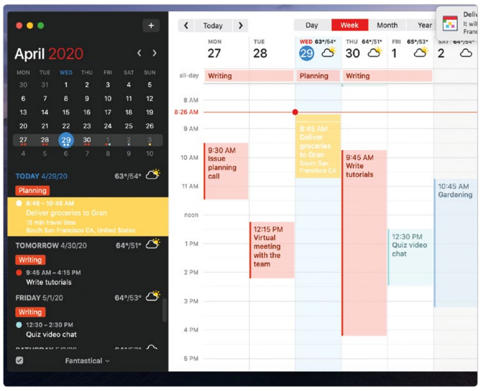
IT WILL TAKE
5 minutes

APPLE'S iOS AND iPadOS apps are great, but they're not always the best choice for everyone. That's why the App Store is filled with alternatives: Carrot Weather (and until Apple bought it, Dark Sky) as alternatives to Apple's own Weather; Fantastical instead of Calendar; Firefox instead of Safari; and so on. But while Apple was happy to let you install alternatives, it kept its own apps as the default — so if you clicked a link, it'd open in Safari; if you clicked an "email us" button, it'd launch Mail. That has changed in iOS 14 and iPadOS 14.

It's only changed a little bit, though. For now, you can only change the defaults for two kinds of app: your web browser and your email app. In the longer term, we'd expect to see the ability to swap out the defaults for other things, so for example it'd be good to swap Calendar with Fantastical, Reminders with your favorite to-do app, and so on.

As you can see, swapping the default mail and browser apps is simple. But getting them to stay swapped right now is a little trickier. There's a glitch that means the apps often revert to the system defaults after a software update, and we've found that Siri flatly refuses to respect our email choices: when we ask her to send an email, she always wants to do it with the default iPad Mail app.

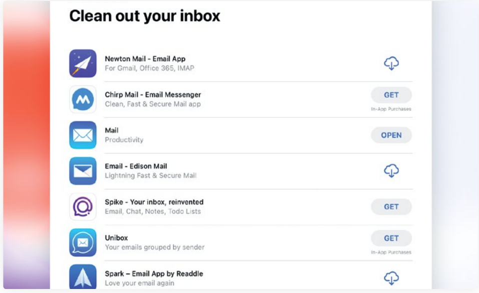
CARRIE MARSHALL


April 2020
Today
Day
Week
Month
Year
Planning
Writing
Fantastical

Currently, you can't change the default calendar app to use a third-party option such as Fantastical.

Image rights from top: Apple, Flexibits.

HOW TO Change the default apps


Clean out your inbox

Newton Mail - Email App
For Gmail, Office 365, IMAP

Chirp Mail - Email Messenger
Clean, Fast & Secure Mail app

Mail
Productivity

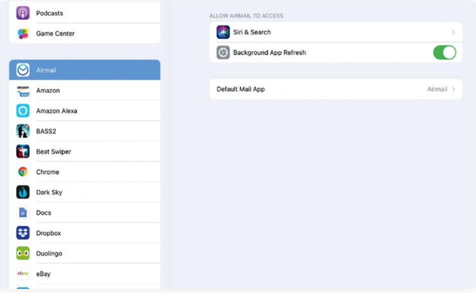
Email - Edison Mail
Lightning Fast & Secure Mail

Spike - Your inbox, reinvented
Email, Chat, Notes, Todo Lists

Unibox
Your emails grouped by sender

Spark – Email App by Readdle
Love your email again

GET
In-App Purchases
OPEN
GET
GET
In-App Purchases


Podcasts
Game Center
Airmail
Amazon
Amazon Alexa
BASS2
Beat Swiper
Chrome
Dark Sky
Docs
Dropbox
Duolingo
eBay
ALLOW AIRMAIL TO ACCESS
Siri & Search
Background App Refresh

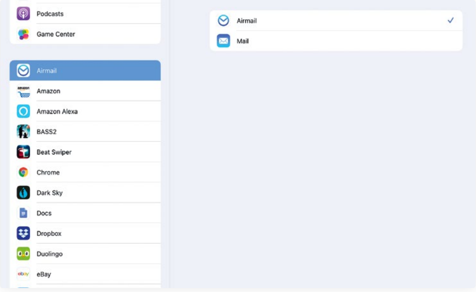
Default Mail App: Airmail

1 Find the alternative

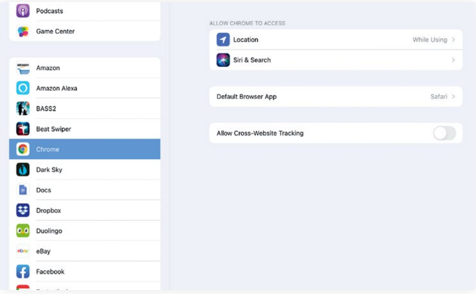
The App Store is full of alternatives to Apple's default email and web browsing apps, so the first step is to choose the one you want. The App Store provides some useful round-ups of apps so that's a good place to start.

2 Change your email app

Once you've set up the email app and connected it to your email account(s), the next step is to go into the Settings app on your iPhone or iPad. Scroll down until you see the name of the new email app and tap on it.


Podcasts
Game Center
Airmail
Amazon
Amazon Alexa
BASS2
Beat Swiper
Chrome
Dark Sky
Docs
Dropbox
Duolingo
eBay

Airmail ✓
Mail


Podcasts
Game Center
Amazon
Amazon Alexa
BASS2
Beat Swiper
Chrome
Dark Sky
Docs
Dropbox
Duolingo
eBay
Facebook
ALLOW CHROME TO ACCESS

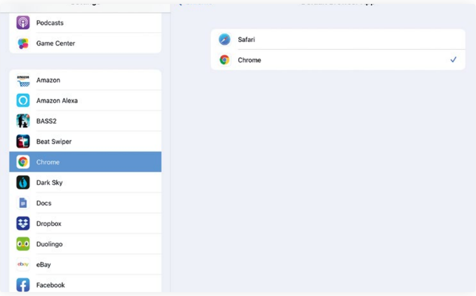
Location: While Using
Siri & Search
Default Browser App: Safari
Allow Cross-Website Tracking

3 Change the default

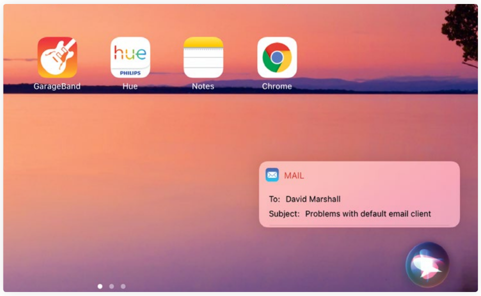
In the app's Settings page, you should now see an option that says Default Mail App. If you haven't already changed it, it'll be set to Mail. Tap on this and you'll see a list of installed email apps. Tap the one you want to use.

4 Swap your web browser

The process for your web browser is almost identical. Once again, you'll need to find and install your preferred web browsing app before you can change the defaults. In this example, we're going to use Google Chrome.


Podcasts
Game Center
Amazon
Amazon Alexa
BASS2
Beat Swiper
Chrome
Dark Sky
Docs
Dropbox
Duolingo
eBay
Facebook

Safari
Chrome ✓


GarageBand
Hue
Notes
Chrome
MAIL

To: David Marshall
Subject: Problems with default email client

5 Change browser default

Again, it's a case of going into your iPhone or iPad's Settings app and scrolling down until you see the name of your preferred browser. Tap on it and then tap on Default Browser App, which will currently say Safari.

6 Don't ask Siri to email

Once you've changed the defaults, your iPhone or iPad should use your preferred app for everything. We say "should" because there are still bugs: Siri and some shortcuts rely on Mail and don't want to talk to third-party apps.

JARGON BUSTER

Default apps are the apps your iPhone or iPad is set up to use automatically: Mail for email, Safari for web browsing, and so on.

GENIUS TIP

Don't delete Mail if you want to keep using Siri Shortcuts such as "Send an email to...." For now, Siri doesn't recognize third-party mail apps.

Image rights: Apple.

Apple One

Are the Apple One bundles really worth it, or are there cheaper alternatives?

HOW IT WORKS

YOU WILL LEARN
You'll learn what Apple One is and whether it represents good value

APPLE ONE IS A SUBSCRIPTION BUNDLE FOR GAMING, TV, MUSIC, NEWS, FITNESS, AND ONLINE STORAGE

KEY FACT

There are three versions of Apple One: Individual, Family and Premier, offering different bundles and storage options. You can't pick and choose which services are in your bundle.

If you subscribe to a number of Apple services, Apple One may be an economic choice but it's worth doing your sums first.

We know that Apple doesn't usually invent things; it waits, watches and refines them instead. The iPhone wasn't the first smartphone. The iPad wasn't the first tablet. And Apple One wasn't the first Amazon Prime.

We're not being funny. Apple One has a lot in common with Prime because, as Amazon has demonstrated to the tune of 150 million subscribers, it's much easier to sell a single subscription bundle than persuade customers to sign up for this and that and this other thing. In the case of Prime, that single subscription gives customers free delivery, Prime Video, Kindle book lending, Amazon Photos, Amazon Music, and various other bits and bobs. In the case of Apple One, it gives you some or all of Apple's digital services.

WHAT'S IN APPLE ONE?

Apple One is a bundle of Apple's subscription services for gaming, TV, music, news, fitness, and online storage. There are three versions: Individual, Family, and Premier. Individual and Family both offer Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple Arcade and iCloud, with 50GB of storage for the Individual tier and 200GB for the Family one. The Individual tier is $14.95 a month and Family is $19.95 a month.

The third tier, Premier, is the all-you-can-eat offering. It gives you the same services as the other two tiers, ups the iCloud storage to 2TB, and adds Apple News+ and Apple Fitness+. It's $29.95 per month and, like Family, you can share with up to five other people.

With Family and Premier, each user logs in with their own Apple ID and gets private access to each service. For example, the kids won't see your Fitness+ programs or your Apple TV+ viewing history and recommendations, and they won't be able to mess with your Apple Music playlists.

Parents
RAISING THE FUTURE
Parents
THE NEW WAY TO SCHOOL
MAKE LEARNING FUN AGAIN
CHANCE THE RAPPER ON HOW TO BE A FORCE FOR GOOD

A subscription to Apple News+ doesn't just provide the headlines, you get access to magazine content too.

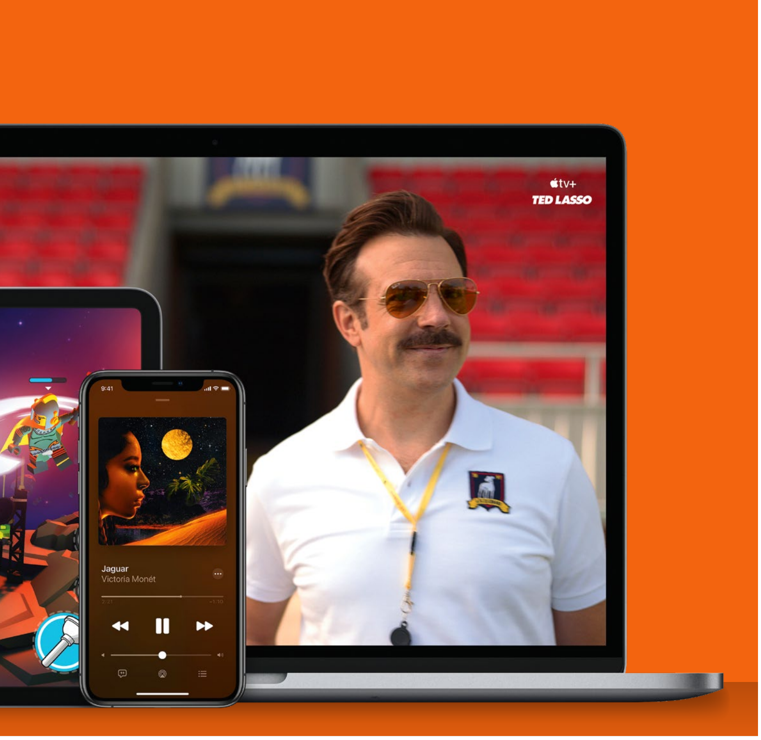
HOW DO I GET APPLE ONE?

Go to apple.com/apple-one to find out more or subscribe. There's a free trial but only for the services you don't already subscribe to. So, for example, if you have Apple Music but not News+ or Apple TV+, you'll get a 30-day trial of the latter two but not the former.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU SAVE?

With Apple One you can bundle up to six Apple Services into one subscription — the biggest saving is when you go for the full bundle. Let's do the sums. The top tier of Apple One, the Premier bundle, is

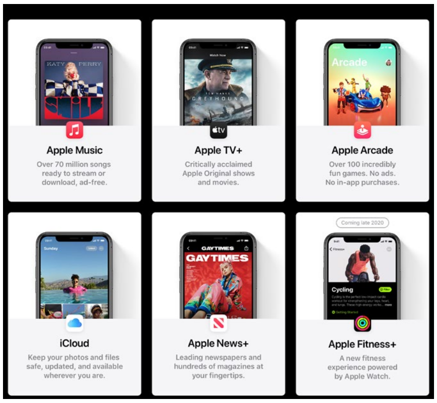
Image rights: Apple, Inc.



> SAVE MONEY WITHOUT APPLE ONE

The savings offered by Apple One are based on comparing paying full price for each subscription, but you don't always need to do that. Various offers often mean you can access much the same content as Apple One without paying the same figure.

Apple TV+ is $4.99 a month – but it's free if you buy a new iPhone, iPad, Apple TV, iPod touch, or Mac. That's a saving of $4.99 a month. If you haven't already signed up for Apple Music, you can get your first three months free – a saving of between $4.99 a month for students and $14.99 a month for families. Apple News+ doesn't officially have a free trial, but see if your cellphone network offers a deal.



Apple Music
Over 70 million songs ready to stream or download, ad-free.

Apple TV+
Critically acclaimed Apple Original shows and movies.

Apple Arcade
Over 100 incredibly fun games. No ads. No in-app purchases.

iCloud
Keep your photos and files safe, updated, and available wherever you are.

Apple News+
Leading newspapers and hundreds of magazines at your fingertips.

Coming late 2020
Apple Fitness+
A new fitness experience powered by Apple Watch.

With free trials, you can access Apple services without having to start an Apple One subscription.

$29.95 a month. That gives you Apple Music with a Family subscription, usually $14.99 a month; Apple TV+, which is $4.99 a month; Apple Arcade, which is also $4.99; 2TB of iCloud, which is $9.99; Apple News+, which is $9.99, and Apple Fitness+, which is $9.99. Separately, that little lot would cost you $54.94 a month, so you're saving $25 with Apple One.

The Family tier is $19.95 a month and drops News+ and Fitness+ as well as taking iCloud down to 200GB of storage. The monthly saving is $8.

And for individual users, the Individual tier is $14.95 and will save you $6 a month. Like Family it dispenses with Apple News+ and Fitness+ and it drops the iCloud storage even lower to just 50GB.

IS IT WORTH THE MONEY?

We'd quibble with a few things here. 50GB of iCloud storage is poor when even the most modest iPhone has 64GB capacity: a few backups and some 4K video are going to burn through that space very quickly, never mind iCloud Drive. The same applies to the Family tier: 200GB isn't much for snap-happy families. Many Individual users are going to need more iCloud storage fairly quickly, and we're disappointed by the standard amounts. Yes, you can upgrade your iCloud, but that defeats the point of a bundle.

It also seems strange for Apple News+ and Fitness+ to be restricted to the Premier tier, which is effectively Family on steroids. Many Individual users would be interested in those services without necessarily wanting a family subscription to Apple Music.

The biggest consideration, of course, is whether you'll actually use all the services in your bundle. Take our own home as an example: we have an Arcade sub but the kids rarely use it; we used our free Apple TV+ trial to watch a documentary but haven't been tempted back; and while we use Apple Music, other family members got Spotify free with their phones.

There's an irony here. Tech firms were hailed as cord-cutters, freeing us from the tyranny of satellite or cable TV bundles that had channels we'd rarely or never use. And now they're pushing bundles that include online services that some of us may rarely or never use. If you're going to use all the services in your chosen tier, Apple One is great value. And if not, best stick to individual subscriptions for now. **CARRIE MARSHALL**

Spotify wants authorities to block Apple One. It claims bundling Apple Music is unfair competition.

KEY FACT

Apple One is designed to boost adoption of all of Apple's digital services. In late 2020, Apple TV+ subscribers whose free year was about to expire were offered a surprise three-month extension for free. Some industry watchers suggest that means Apple is having trouble converting its many free TV users into paying customers.

Image rights: Apple, Inc, Spotify.

DEC 1968 – NOV 2020

Adam Banks

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to longtime *Mac|Life* writer Adam Banks, who tragically passed away in November last year. What he didn't know about Apple wasn't worth talking about. He was in charge of our monthly Random Access Memory and we know, from the many emails we get, that it was a favorite page in the magazine. Fellow *Mac|Life* scribe and good friend Craig Grannell pays tribute to the man who will be sorely missed

BEST KNOWN FOR his editorship of *MacUser* magazine, Adam Banks was a hugely accomplished writer and virtuoso designer. But he was also a man with a big heart: kind, generous, witty, and always keen to offer encouragement.

For those of us in the interlocking worlds of Apple, publishing and design – and we are many – it seems unreal that Adam will never again pop up on Twitter to offer a pithy comment or sagely bite of wisdom. There's that feeling in the gut – a desperation to have one last chat on the phone. But time is weird: you seem to have so much of it, and then you have none at all.

Adam knew a lot about time. Although he'd drive printers mad with a fluid interpretation of print deadlines, the hours he devoted to crafting *MacUser* were akin to wizardry, given that he was editor, designer, and creative director. The publication was truly his – and those of us fortunate enough to work alongside him clung on for the ride, as if atop an F1 car majestically zigzagging through the grid.

The finished article was always unfailingly brilliant and beautiful, a unique mix of words and visuals unlike anything else out there. And when *MacUser* closed, his sagely work continued to find outlets in the tech press, lecturing, support for start-ups and local press, and all manner of magazines and creative vehicles.

Longtime Apple CEO Steve Jobs is supposed to have once said we're all here to put a dent in the universe. Safe to say, Adam Banks made his mark, in the Apple world and far beyond; it's no exaggeration that a great many creatives wouldn't be where they are today without having benefitted from Adam's guidance and support.

The world is a poorer place without him in it. Wherever you are, Adam, we hope you are at peace.

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iPHONE
iPAD
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The new Mac
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• MacBook Pro
• Mac mini
FEATURING APPLE'S NEW SUPER FAST M1 CHIP
HOW TO:
Master Safari in Big Sur
Use Continuity Camera in Notes
Customize the Control Center
Create Smart Stacks in iOS 14
FUTURE
BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO OLD APPLE TECH
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www.lovepaperna.org

Source: American Forest & Paper Association, 2018

LOVE
PAPER